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Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Gives Address on 41st Month of Intifadah

LD1004184191

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on 10 April to commemorate the 41st month of the intifadah; place not given—recorded]

[Editorial Report] Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic at 1624 GMT on 10 April broadcasts a 31-minute recorded speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat begins his speech with a Koranic verse and follows by saying that the Arab nation is passing through a grave turning point, an historic and fateful turning point. He says that after the end of the vicious war faced by the Iraqi people and its Army with regard to the liberation of Kuwait, Iraqi unity is now being threatened with the dangerous conditions dictated by the unprecedented United Nations resolutions. 'Arafat notes that the Arab nation has sustained military, material, political, and moral losses which are difficult to overlook. 'Arafat then quotes more Koranic verses.

'Arafat continues, calling on the blessed people of the intifadah, saying this is the day of the saga. He calls for firmer determination and for long life for Jihad and the struggle. 'Arafat calls for clearing away all obstacles and hurdles in the way to liberating Jerusalem.

'Arafat then talks about the U.S. support for Israel, saying that it is unacceptable that Israel should continue to receive enhanced U.S. support, or that Israel should be encouraged continuously to pursue its occupation of Palestinian land, Islamic and Christian sanctities, and its hostile policies toward the Palestinian people. He says U.S. support has reached the stage whereby every UN Security Council act is undermined by the use of vetoes for a continued Israeli occupation, its continued massacres, and its crimes.

'Arafat talks about political and diplomatic moves undertaken by the PLO recently in order to face up to the current developments in the region. He says we have been actively pursuing a calm diplomacy, with the aim of reconstructing the minimum of Arab unity. We have done this, he says, through attending the Arab League meetings in order to retrieve our nation from split and division, to halt the state of deterioration, and to heal the deep wounds left by the destructive Gulf war. He adds that in order to formulate an Arab stance toward the challenges targetted at our region, a session of the Palestinian National Council has been called within the next few days to discuss all these issues. "We stress that all Palestinian groupings without exception and all national personalities should attend this original Palestinian and democratic (?session)."

'Arafat concludes his speech by calling for national unity. He says: "Let us escalate our resistance and our intifadah. Dawn is coming and victory is near."

DFLP Says U.S. Insists on 'Excluding' PLO

NC0904130491 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Apr 91 p 14

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that the U.S. Administration insists on single-handedly dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question outside the framework of the Security Council and the United Nations, and on excluding the PLO.

In a statement distributed yesterday the DFLP said that U.S. policy expressed in recent U.S. Administration official statements does not conceal the essence of the plan that is based on excluding the PLO.

The statement added that we have already stressed that the positions U.S. President George Bush declared on the implementation of resolutions 242 and 338 and the exchange of land for peace are steps in the right direction. The U.S. Administration's behavior during the first visit of its secretary of state to the region and during his current tour, however, indicates that this administration is not sincere in finding a settlement with conditions that recognize the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

Officials Cited on Split Within DFLP

NC1004125391 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 10 Apr 91 p 24

[By the Palestinian affairs editor]

[Text] Observers of Palestinian events agree that the upcoming meetings of the PLO Central Council in Tunis on 21 April, the fate of the Palestinian military presence in Palestinian camps in Lebanon and its southern area, and the differences that have divided the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] into two factions are the most serious developments in the Palestinian arena.

A number of officials in the Palestinian leadership asserted to AL-RAY that these differences are the most serious Palestinian event, proceeding from the Arab proverb that says: "It is better to have a thousand enemies outside the household than to have one inside." There is a great difference between he who tries to sink a ship by making a hole in it while he himself is a passenger, and he who prays to the gods to send sweeping gales to sink it!

Optimistic Fatah members often say that healing the rift in the DFLP is not impossible and that the upcoming meeting of the PLO Central Council can set up a committee to hold a dialogue between the two sides and reach decisions that are binding to both the disputing parties.

Pessimists in the Palestinian leadership, most of whom are front members, believe that the hole has become too

large to be patched up and that faction 13 [as published] is about to be formed within the Palestinian revolution under Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh.

Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC] and chairman of the PLO Central Council, told AL-RA'Y that the dispute within the DFLP is not listed on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the PLO Central Council. He noted that the PLO Central Council has no authority to discuss this matter, pointing out that this issue can only be discussed during the PNC"s forthcoming meetings.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih also referred to the persistent efforts that were made by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Dr. George Habash, the late Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], and himself to heal the rift in the DFLP. Despite these efforts, it appears that matters have reached a deadlock.

Fatah members believe that a solution is possible and that individual opinions within any faction should never lead to a split. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador in Amman, asserted to AL-RA'Y that the dispute within the DFLP concerns every Palestinian, and not only DFLP members. He expects the PLO Central Council to discuss the issue during its upcoming session in order to strengthen the pillars of the Palestinian house. He called for unity between the Palestinian people and the PLO, between the PLO and its leadership, and between the people inside and outside [the occupied territories]. He also urged the unity of all the Palestinian factions, stressing that there is no justification for the split inside the DFLP regardless of any excuses and reasons.

It seems that front members know more than others about the differences within a faction that broke with the DFLP itself 22 years go.

'Azmi al-Khawaja, member of the DFLP Political Bureau asserted to AL-RA'Y that there are no strong common denominators that can bring both parties to the three-year old dispute closer together. He added: "any efforts would be useless" to heal the rift, pointing out that Abu-'Ammar, George Habash, and others tried several times, including last month in Tunis, to end the differences, but to no avail.

He said: Palestinian national unity is necessary more than ever and this split will affect the unity of the Unified National Leadership and the march of the intifadah in light of the fierce onslaught by the United States, Israel, and some Arab countries against the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian communists believe that discussing the differences in the DFLP is an internal affair of a major and independent faction in the PLO. Sulayman al-Najjab, assistant secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, asserted to AL-RA'Y that he had participated in efforts to end the differences within the DFLP, and he expressed regret about the movement toward dissent.

He added: I do not say that a new faction was born, but there is a new dissident faction. The PLO Central Council, he said, has no authority to discuss the differences, and we hope that the two sides in the DFLP can heal the rift and restore the movement's unity to resume its role in defending the PLO and the Palestinian people's rights.

Al-Franji Interviewed on Future of Palestinians

LD0604201791 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 4 Apr 91 p 18

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Franji, "PLO representative at the Arab League in Bonn," by Peter Glotz and Norbert Seitz, place and date not given: "After the Failed Siding With Saddam Husayn"; the interview was originally published in No. 4 of NEUE GESELLSCHAFT/ FRANKFURTER HEFTE]

[Text] [FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] The attitude of the PLO in the Gulf crisis has strengthened its position among the Palestinian masses on the one hand, but on the other it seems to have weakened the PLO's role at the international level. How do you assess the situation of your organization now, after the war is over?

[Al-Franji] I think that the attitude of the PLO and the position of the PLO are very difficult. First, because the PLO was surprised—like everybody else—by the occupation of Kuwait and because Saddam Husayn linked the problem of Palestine with the solution to the Gulf war. This linkage raised hopes among the Palestinian masses. Because of this situation, they were naturally guided by emotions, which brought them to Saddam Husayn's side. In this situation things were very difficult for the PLO leadership. One cannot accept the occupation of Kuwait, but we did not condemn it, in the hope that the PLO might play a mediating role. In the meantime, it has been noted that this intention on the part of the PLO failed: The role of the PLO was not accepted. Neither has Saddam Husayn given in, nor have the other Arab states helped.

Second, at the international level we were opposed because the PLO, which is struggling for its own, free country, dared to side with Saddam Husayn, so to speak. Since the end of the war, an intensive discussion has now started within the PLO, and over the past two to three days I have felt that the PLO is now strengthened. That is, one now starts assuming that the superpowers—above all, the United States—have to act with the same intensity concerning the Security Council resolutions that apply to Israel and Palestine as they did previously concerning the question of Kuwait.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] Do you really believe that? Do have the hope that the Americans will

now exert pressure on Israel to make progress with the Palestinian problem and to accept the PLO as a partner in the talks?

[Al-Franji] After the experiences which we have had for 43 years, one has difficulties in "believing" that. But if one now looks at the realities, I think that the United States want Israeli security to be guaranteed. It has been realized that the occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has not guaranteed Israel's security. Scud missiles from Iraq were seen exploding on Israeli territory, and if these weapons had been equipped with biological or chemical or nuclear warheads, one would have realized in an even more brutal manner that Israel's security is not ensured. As long as the Arab-Israeli conflict remains open, there is always the danger that a confrontation could break out. Therefore, I believe that the United States now has to work more seriously for a solution to this problem.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] In your view, what is the situation of the people like in this region? Saddam Husayn launched Arab nationalism. Islam has not given rise to nationalism as it exists in Europe. Nevertheless, there are people who say that now a pan-Arab nationalism will spread—after the many dead that were the price of this war. Do you think this likely?

[Al-Franji] In order to give an exact answer to this, one has to repeat Arab history in certain outlines. Recent Arab history starts in 1916 with the division of the Arab countries and the new emergence of states, proposed and enforced by Great Britain and France.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] ...which were drawn up in a completely arbitrary way.

[Al-Franji] These states were founded against Arab unity and against the will of the Arabs. In geographic terms, Kuwait would be part of Iraq. If one looks at it from the geographic point of view, it is like Hong Kong and China. Nevertheless: Kuwait has been a member of the United Nations since 1961; it was accepted as a state also by the Iraqis. Here the problem begins. Do we want to achieve Arab unity now through revolution, through violence, or through evolution? The disappointments of the Arab masses about the Arab governments from 1916 up to now are so big that these masses are cheering everyone who dares to work toward Arab unity. I cite al-Nasir and the early al-Qadhdhafi. Now comes a new man like Saddam Husayn, who promised this Arab unity. This is where the conflict between the desire of the Arab masses started, but also the conflict among the Arab leaders.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] In the future, will there be a stronger pan-Arab nationalism instead of Iraqi or Syrian nationalism?

[Al-Franji] At the moment we have two attempts to achieve Arab unity. Saddam Husayn's attempt has failed. The second attempt is made within the framework of the Arab League.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] This would be a federalistic community.

[Al-Franji] Yes. This would be an attempt to bring the Arabs to a consensus, but not within the framework of that political and state unity for which many have been striving since the 1920's. Nevertheless, the desire of the Arab masses will remain, and one does not now know to which extent the development is going in the direction of nationalism, as in the Ba'th Party, or in the direction of the new Islamic-fundamentalist movement.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] After the war, is there a chance that organizations such as Hamas (an Islamic-fundamentalist movement—the editors) will become much stronger than they have been so far, and cut the ground from under the feet of the secular Palestinians in the West Bank?

[Al-Franji] The development within Palestinian society is different than that in the rest of the Arab states. The PLO—regardless of one's position toward the PLO, of whether one is for or against it—is a democratic institution for the Palestinian people, and it has offered a place for everyone in practice; for the communists, the nationalists, the conservatives, the progressives, and for the Muslims, so that the Islamic movements are also represented in the Palestinian parliament. Hamas is not yet represented as an organization, but some others that are representing Islamic movements have been accepted. The Islamic movements are very strong in the Arab area. We see this in Jordan, for instance, where they won the elections. In Syria they had to go underground, because the government did not accept their influence. Even in Saddam Husayn's case, one saw that he used Islam in his struggle against the foreign powers. In Iran, too, this can be seen very clearly. One also feels this influence in Afghanistan, Sudan, in the USSR, in China, etc. These movements, however, do not have any concept of the future Arab society. They relied on the Koran, where one can find all solutions without daring to define how one can, for instance, solve the problem of women. Will a new role of the woman be accepted or will it not be accepted? What does Arab unity look like? What are the Arabs doing? The Arabs are unified because they are Muslims. What are the Arab Christians doing, what are the non-Arab Muslims doing?

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] If one looks once again at the effects of the war, is it not to be assumed first of all, that the winner of this conflict will be Iran?

[Al-Franji] The first loser of this war is not only Iraq but the entire Arab world: economically, politically, the division of the Arab League. The first winner is Israel and then Iran. Iran has received everything from Iraq that it wanted. They have the borders, they even have 130 planes, now they also have influence because of the new Shiite movement that developed against Saddam Husayn.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] This would mean that the U.S. policy was not very successful. At first, one

supported Iraq against Iran in order to block the Islamic trends there. Now Iran, which one first wanted to weaken, has been strengthened by Saddam Husayn's forced disarmament.

[Al-Franji] I think that the United States and also the European policy in this region has been wrong from the very beginning. This policy was aimed at getting as much profit as possible in the economy. Profit was made by exports arms to this area. Arms were delivered to Iran, Iraq, all Arab states, also to Israel, so that these weapons encouraged the states to wage war among themselves. One cooperated either with dictators or with fundamentalists or with movements, which were antidemocratic and very aggressive in every respect. Basically, one promoted a state of affairs that only gave rise to unrest and tensions. The military operation is a second mistake, the effect of which we do not yet feel totally, but which we might feel very strongly in the future. This military operation destroyed Iraq's infrastructure and made Iraq's society uncertain. A situation like the one in Lebanon might also develop. I say ironically: If the United States and the Allies sent their troops to this area to enforce the resolutions of the UN Security Council, then they now also have to enforce the other Security Council resolutions concerning the Palestinians' right to self-determination.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] Let us come to the peace order that is supposed to be established now. There are several problems in the region. There is the problem of Kuwait-Iraq, there is the problem of Lebanon, there is the problem of the Palestinians, but, of course, there also is the oil problem. Do you agree with us if we say: These problems cannot be solved all at once at a conference following the model of the CSCE in Europe in 1975, but one will probably need a series of conferences, that is, various negotiation tables, where these problems are discussed? What is the PLO's view on that?

[Al-Franji] Solving the problems of this region in one stroke would be inconceivable and unimaginable. No one claims to be able to do that, neither in the PLO nor anywhere else. If one now tries to fix up some solution, however, without knowing what the goal is and without asking those who are directly affected, this is criminal. The number one problem is the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Because Israel exists there as a result of the support by the West European States and the United States, because Israel there pursues an aggressive policy, because Israel is still occupying one-fourth of Lebanon, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip; and because East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights have been annexed. As long as Israel insists on that, there will be no peace in the Middle East, even if the Americans remain stationed there, even if the Europeans also send their troops there. They cannot guarantee Israel's security in the long run.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] Is the PLO, for its part, willing to accept Israel's existence, if Israel accepts UN resolutions 242 and 338?

[Al-Franji] Of course, we said this already in 1988, in resolutions of the Palestinian National Council. The majority of the Palestinians is for that. But if one says, we reject the PLO; we do not want to talk to the Palestinians; there is no right to self-determination for the Palestinians, and the Palestinians may have only self-administration for a certain time—this is not a solution but a postponement of the confrontation for another few years.

[FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU] How does your organization envisage a Palestinian state? One wonders whether a state that exists in the West Bank and the Gaza strip would be viable in economic and security policy terms? After all, there are ideas of confederations with Israel, of confederations with Jordan. What are the visions of the future of a Palestinian state?

[Al-Franji] I think that these are legitimate questions. If we look at Israel more closely, however—how dependent it is in every respect: economically, politically, militarily—I can only say: Without the Arabs Israel would not be viable, either. If we now found this state, one would have to ask how much responsibility this state would be able to accept for its own security and for the security of others. It is better to have a state that can accept obligations than a mass that is unable to fulfill political obligations.

Egypt

Reportage on Secretary of State Baker's Visit

Arrives in Cairo

NC1004192791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a two-day visit during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The U.S. secretary of state will also hold talks with Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on current developments in the Middle East.

Baker will also meet with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal, who arrives in Cairo later today. Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador to Egypt, received the U.S. secretary of state at the airport.

Received by Mubarak

NC1004201491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1956 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received U.S. State Secretary James Baker at the Presidential Palace today. Secretary Baker arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Meets With Saudi Official

NC1104082091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—This morning U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who arrived in Cairo earlier today.

The meeting dealt with the situation in the Gulf and the Middle East, as well as moves to establish peace and reach a solution to the Palestine question. The talks also deal with security arrangements in the Gulf region during the next stage, and bilateral relations.

Following this meeting, the U.S. secretary of state is scheduled to leave Cairo for Damascus. This will conclude his current tour of the Middle East, which so far has taken him to Turkey, Israel, and Egypt.

Briefed on Peace Efforts

NC1104093091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid joined the meeting of Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, it has now become a tripartite meeting.

MENA has learned that during the meeting, the United States will be briefed on the views of Egypt and Saudi Arabia on the efforts being made to establish peace and security in the Gulf and Middle East regions. Baker is scheduled to leave Cairo for Damascus to continue his talks with Syrian officials. This is within the framework of Baker's current tour, which so far has taken him to Turkey, Israel, and Egypt.

Holds News Conference

NC1004215491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has described tonight's meeting between President Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as extremely fruitful. At a joint news conference with Baker after the meeting, 'Abd-al- Majid called the session another step on the road to Mideast peace and stability.

We appreciate President Bush's and Secretary Baker's efforts to promote a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem, he added. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said he believed progress will materialize. He said we must work hard, in the knowledge that the United States is serious. We are working with our friends in the region toward that end.

He said the crisis we experienced in the Gulf has provided lessons all of us must learn from as we address Mideast problems, which will have to be sorted out in the interest of regional peace and stability. We will maintain our contacts with Baker and our friends and we wish him success in his visits in the coming days.

Mr. Baker said he was happy to be in Cairo again. I would like to thank President Mubarak and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid for tonight's meeting and for giving me the opportunity to resume the dialogue we began on my earlier visit to Egypt. I spent a day and a half in Egypt, where I think we had fruitful and useful talks. I still hope we will devise a way to promote a process leading to peace in the Middle East.

Baker repeated the assertion he made during his visit to Israel that we are faced with extremely tough long-standing problems which will be hard to solve. There are still problems and issues that need to be addressed and solved. There seems to be a convergence of views on these issues between the United States and countries outside the region, as well as those within the region like Israel and Egypt. We hope others will join us, Baker said.

Asked whether Egypt prefers a regional or an international conference, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are prepared to discuss any means to achieve a peaceful solution. I believe there is a common element between the two, namely the word "conference." Within this framework, we can work for that conference [as received] and see how we can turn it into a tool to achieve what we desire: Peace. I believe we are very sincere about achieving a comprehensive peace in this part of the world.

Responding to another question on whether Egypt accepts the idea of a regional conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: This is an interesting idea which has been discussed by the U.S. secretary of state. We will discuss it with great seriousness and an open mind. As I said, I am certain that Egypt is prepared to support anything that may lead to peace.

Asked if Egypt insists on the participation of all UN Security Council members in supervising the international conference, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: I think this statement is inaccurate. If, however, we succeed in obtaining an international presence, which would truly mean that this conference is convened under international supervision, then I think that Egypt will be prepared to go ahead in that direction.

Asked whether Egypt continued to insist on the conference's being held under the auspices of the United Nations when the United States does not see this as an absolute necessity, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are open to any suggestions. The most important thing for us is to press ahead with our efforts to find a solution to the Middle East problem. This is not to say that we are retreating from our position. It is important to achieve peace. I repeat my appreciation for the U.S. efforts and hope these will culminate in success in the interest of regional peace and stability.

Answering the same question, Baker said: As Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said, it is important that there be real and meaningful progress toward reconciliation and peace. This is the important thing. As for sponsorship, this is, to my mind, of secondary importance. We have to look into the steps that could lead us to a practical and tangible progress toward peace.

Meets With Austrian Counterpart

NC1004175991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1731 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker met with his Austrian counterpart Alois Mock at 1715 this evening.

Talks during the meeting focused on the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf region and regional security arrangements, as well as the Austrian plan for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East and a conference for cooperation and security in the Middle East along the lines of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Austrian and American officials had arrived separately in Cairo earlier today on visits lasting a couple of days.

Departs for Syria

NC1104103291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1004 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State James Baker described his talks today with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, as good.

This was included in a statement at the end of the talks that lasted two and one-half hours. The U.S. secretary of state then left for the airport to fly to Damascus as part of his tour, which he began by visiting Turkey, Israel, and then Egypt.

U.S. Official Reviews Baker Talks in Israel

NC1104071291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] An official spokesman for the delegation accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is now visiting Cairo, has stated that the U.S. Administration obtained information that the Israeli Government has agreed to deal [ala al-ta'amul] on the basis of the land for peace principle.

In statements to journalists, the U.S. spokesman expressed the conviction that prospects are good for convening a Middle East peace conference. He added that the basic idea of the conference consists of two steps: Holding talks or a dialogue between the Arab countries and Israel and holding a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. He said that it would be possible for the participants in this conference to agree to move toward holding negotiations for a comprehensive settlement based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338. The spokesman added, however, it is important to admit that these participants clearly differ on the interpretation of these two resolutions.

The U.S. spokesman pointed out that James Baker's talks in Israel dealt with the issue of Palestinian representation in the proposed regional peace conference. He denied, however, that there were discussions about the Israeli Government's desire that Palestinians from East Jerusalem not participate in this conference. He added that this issue has not been raised or discussed.

'Abd-al-Majid, Austria's Mock Attend Conference

NC1004162991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1536 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—A three-day conference of Austrian ambassadors in the Middle East opened in Cairo today.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, who is currently visiting Cairo, attended the conference's opening session.

In a speech he delivered on the occasion, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed the importance of relations between Egypt and Austria and expressed his appreciation for Austria's choice of Cairo as the venue for this important conference. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister clarified that it is necessary for the international consensus the United Nations exhibited during the Gulf crisis to be maintained so that we can find solutions to all problems in the region.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid added that Egypt believes the international community must treat the Middle East problem with the same vigor, determination, and perseverence they displayed during the Gulf crisis.

He expressed satisfaction with statements by the administration of U.S. President George Bush and the European Community affirming the urgent need to solve the Middle East and the Palestine questions. [passage omitted]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid clarified that Egypt's stand on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question stems from the fact that any just and permanent solution must be based first on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territory it has occupied since 1967; second, on acknowledgment of the legitimate and political rights of the Palestinian people including their right to establish a state; third, on the participation of the Palestinian people as a key party in all efforts to solve the Palestine question; fourth, on guarantees for the security and stability of all countries in the region; fifth, on the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East so that there is opportunity for direct negotiations between the sides concerned; and finally, on the importance of measures to restore trust in any peace process. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Meets With Mock

NC1104122891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 11 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Austrian Foreign Minister Dr. Alois Mock at the Presidential Palace this morning. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Mubarak Comments on Meeting With Al-Qadhdhafi

NC1004123891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has declared that his visit to Tripoli yesterday was within the framework of the continuing consultations with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, with whom he discussed the issue of unity.

He stressed that the cooperation and the linked interests of the two countries and the establishment of communications, including railroads, will automatically lead to unity, which must not be enforced from above, but must come from the people.

President Mubarak made these remarks to the chief editors of newspapers who accompanied him during his visit to Libya, which lasted for 15 hours. President Mubarak said that there are approximately 1 million Egyptians in Libya who are working in various fields.

President Mubarak touched on Egypt's talks with the IMF. He said that the agreement signed yesterday is almost a miracle, for we did the impossible in the past three years. He noted that the creditor countries will reduce our debts to them by 30 to 40 percent. He added that the agreement with the IMF will help us import needed commodities and production necessities. In the past three years, we made sure that the talks followed calculated and reasonable steps that the citizens could afford.

President Mubarak said that a cabinet reshuffle is possible if public interest requires. He noted that there will be no merging of the existing ministries, but if circumstances require that the activity of one ministry be merged with another, then it will be up to the prime minister, who will head the new government, to decide.

President Mubarak told the Egyptian press editors that Egyptian troops will participate in safeguarding security in the Gulf without causing any embarrassment. They will not enter Iraq or the city of Kuwait, he added.

He added that Iraq's ruler Saddam Husayn wants to trap the world by calling for convening an international conference on the Kurds [as received]. He added that Saddam Husayn claims that he will adopt democracy, but this is difficult, if not impossible, for him to do. He said that if Saddam Husayn had followed advice and withdrawn his troops from Kuwait before the air and ground war by the coalition troops started, he would have backed the world into a corner.

Regarding the developments on the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak said the struggle among PLO leaders is growing, something that will be harmful to them because unity of ranks is essential.

Correspondent on Tripoli Summit, Call for Unity

NC1004104991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Ahmad al-Razzaz dispatch from Tripoli, date not given]

[Excerpts] An Egyptian-Libyan summit was held in the Libyan capital of Tripoli. This is the first time President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi met in Tripoli, and it is extremely significant. We all know that President Mubarak has paid frequent visits to Libya. He visited Tobruk, Surt, and Mersatah several times, but this time the summit was held in Tripoli.

President Mubarak was given an official reception and a 21-gun salute. The streets leading from Tripoli airport to the area of Ghuryan—where the complex for industrial installations known as al-Rabitah is located—and up to the al-'Azeyzah area, the brother colonel's residence, and the city of Tripoli were all packed with brother Libyans, who turned out to receive President Mubarak with love and appreciation.

The word unity, the shouts for unity, and the demand for unity were loudly voiced by the Libyan people. The Egyptian-Libyan meeting reflects unity. Egypt views

unity as a process and a destiny for our Arab nation. But Egypt, which had a practical experience in unity in February 1958 [with Syria], must realize that unity is not an emotional process. It is a process for bringing about firm steps that could consolidate the pillars of unity, and this is what is actually happening through the Egyptian-Libyan Higher Joint Committee, which concluded and endorsed 10 agreements. The most important agreement gives Egyptians and Libyans the right to own property in the two countries. This is an extremely important landmark on the road to unity. There is another agreement that gives the two peoples the right to work in either country. The 10 agreements mean the promotion of cooperation in industry, agriculture, investment, information, health, social security, security, etc.

The Egyptian-Libyan summit dealt with two key issues. The first one is that President Mubarak's visit to Libya coincides with the start of an important movement in the peace process for the Middle East and the Palestinian issue. U.S. Secretary of State Baker will visit Cairo as part of his Middle East tour to examine this topic closely, on the basis of President Bush's statement following the war for the liberation of Kuwait, that it is time to address the Middle East issue. Secretary Baker's visit is for that purpose. Also, President Mubarak's visit follows the war for the liberation of Kuwait, with its painful consequences for all of us as Arabs and for the Iraqi people. In the meantime, Saddam Husayn's terrorism against the Iraqi people continues to trouble us. All of these topics were on the agenda of the Egyptian-Libyan summit. One of the prominent topics discussed by the two leaders was how to clear the Arab atomosphere so that we can deal positively with the developments in the Gulf, the Middle East, and the Palestinian issue. [passage omitted]

From our close watch on the talks, we can conclude that there was full understanding between the two leaders. The two leaders responded positively to all the topics under discussion. Thus, we can say that we are proceeding along a road that seeks to serve the interests of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Conditions of Egyptians in Libya To Be Improved

PM1104112091 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Apr 91 pp 1-2

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report: "Timetable for Settling A Million Egyptians in Libya This Year"]

[Text] It has been decided to determine in the next few days the executive measures to settle a million Egyptians in Libya. A high-level Egyptian delegation from the Agriculture, Interior, and Foreign Ministries will visit the Libyan capital for talks with Libyan officials to set a timetable for settling the Egyptians in agricultural settlements in southeast Libya before the end of the year. Diplomatic sources in Cairo have stated that Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi issued strict instructions to those in charge of Libyan establishments and organs to treat the Egyptians like Libyans in terms of rights and duties. The next few days will witness an intensification of the exchange visits between senior officials of the two countries in order to adopt executive decisions to facilitate movement, residence, and work in the two countries and to achieve gradually the merger between Egypt and Libya, especially since President al-Qadhdhafi has removed the barriers along the Libyan borders with Egypt.

The diplomatic sources pointed out that Libya has decided to allow any Egyptian to obtain Libyan nationality and to participate in political life without restrictions.

The sources emphasized that the first stage in replacing foreign workers and companies by Egyptians will be completed before the end of the year.

Egypt Reportedly Seeking To Replace 'Arafat

NC0304103391 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 1 Apr 91 p 7

[Text] AL-SHIRA' has learned that the Egyptian authorities are conducting intensive efforts and contacts with a Palestinian figure, identified as 'Atallah 'Atallah, alias Abu-al-Za'im, to convince him to take over the Palestinian leadership from Yasir 'Arafat and his aides, under the pretext that 'Arafat has harmed the Palestine cause by supporting Iraq since its occupation of the State of Kuwait.

President Mubarak also entrusted a senior political figure in Cairo with conducting the contacts with Abu-al-Za'im. Consequently, an Egyptian private plane flew Abu-al-Za'im to Cairo where he stayed for five days, during which he met with officials at the Republic Presidency and the Egyptian intelligence services.

An Egyptian official told AL-SHIRA' that one of President Mubarak's aides has indeed met several times with Abu-al-Za'im, and told him that all Egyptian services were at his disposal. He also told him that he and his aides would be given permanent headquarters in Cairo, and that all means of communication would be provided for them. Abu-al-Za'im was also promised that many Palestinian organizations and influential figures inside and outside the occupied territories would join his leadership, and that huge sums of money offered by a European capital, with the participation of some Arab capitals that absolutely reject any cooperation with the PLO, would be at his disposal.

AL-AHRAM Editorial Demands Israeli Guarantees

NC1004082291 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 10 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM's editorial today says that it is time for the United States to obtain from Israel—through diplomatic channels or during visits by officials from the two countries—guarantees specifying a clear Israeli

stand on the Palestinian issue. Such guarantees will be the basis for any future talks with the Palestinian-Arab side.

The paper goes on to say that claims on the need to search for ideas that could be built upon regarding the Middle East problems cannot last as long as Israel maintains its outdated intransigence and insists on ideas and principles that the entire world has rejected. Unless the Israeli stand responds positively to the external moves and unless it gives up its negative and oppressive measures against the Palestinians, there will be no hope for and no use in continuing the contacts.

The paper concludes by saying that everyone must learn from the internal political situation in Israel, where there is increasing recognition that the Shamir government is no longer capable of action and where it is accused by its chief opponent, Shimon Peres, of failing to make peace.

Israel Accused of Creating Optimistic Atmosphere

NC1004161391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Ibrahim Wahbi commentary: "Baker and Legitimacy in Kuwait and the West Bank"]

[Text] For the second time in one month, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited the Middle East region seeking solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict after contributing toward removing the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Baker visits Egypt today after concluding his visit to Israel at a time when U.S. President George Bush does not hesitate to declare on every occasion the need to accelerate the solution of the long-time conflict between the Arabs and Israel and that this solution should be based on the principle of land for peace within the framework of Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967 and Resolution 338 of 1973.

On the eve of Baker's arrival, Israel deliberately created an atmosphere of optimism and an appearance of good intentions. For example, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi made surprising statements one day before Baker's arrival in which he announced that his government agrees to hold a regional conference with one or more Arab countries or a group of other countries. He attempted to portray what he termed concession after concession on Israel's part.

Israel then proceeded to fabricate optimism by announcing that it will release 1,000 Palestinian detainees on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr [feast marking the end of Ramadan]. In addition, Israel has put off the deportation of four Palestinians while waiting for a decision on petitions they had submitted. Israel has created this atmosphere, but, in fact, it has not offered anything new regarding the core of the matter, which is to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict on the principle of land for peace and within the framework of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 stipulating the inadmissibility of the annexation of territory by force. Israel has also not declared its readiness to withdraw from the territories occupied in 1967. The Israeli Government did not announce that it will abandon the methods of force and violence against the Palestinians. It has not accepted nor affirmed that it will accept to give up mass-destruction weapons such as chemical and nuclear weapons.

Agreeing to release Palestinian detainees or accepting to sit down with the Arab countries might merely be new tactics to give the impression of leniency, which does not reveal the reality of Israeli policy. In fact, the reality of Israeli policy is crystal clear. It is proven by the statements issued at the same time it adopted measures to deliberately create optimism. The Israeli Government declared that new settlements will be established and the number of Soviet emigrants increased. It said the new settlements in the occupied territories will be inhabited by Israeli citizens. On the other hand, the Israeli foreign minister once again affirmed that he adheres to Shamir's plan on granting Palestinians limited autonomy and holding elections to choose members of a Palestinian delegation for negotiations.

Israeli media predicted that what Baker will say during his current visit might cause a split inside the Israeli cabinet. This split inside the Israeli Cabinet regarding this problem in particular is a traditional and old tactic through which Israel is trying to delay progress toward any solution, prolong arguments, and scatter concentrated ideas. Israel has used such tactics with former U.S. envoys such as Rogers, William Scranton, Philip Habib, Richard Murphy, and others. Only U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, however, has dealt firmly with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and he has to proceed at that same level of performance to deal with the problem of Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights.

In addition, political analysts consider statements by U.S. President George Bush on the need for speeding up a solution to the Palestine question as an indication that he has found the speed with which the occupation of Kuwait was removed set the standard for dealing with everything that is not legitimate. If Baker visited Israel last time with the basic objective of gathering information and hearing opinions, then in his visit to Israel this time, he is perhaps determined to take major control of discussions regarding three important issues.

The first is the issue of convening a regional or non-regional conference under the auspices of the superpowers. The second is that Israel accept implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. The third is to agree on the Palestinian delegation to negotiations. More important than all this is to urge Israel to abandon the policy of holding talks behind closed doors leading only to where they started.

Paper Criticizes Kuwaiti Statements on Foreigners

NC1004095791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM criticizes statements by some Kuwaitis, especially officials, about cancelling contracts of all foreign workers in Kuwait and changing the demographic structure that existed in Kuwait before 2 August.

Such statements, says the paper, harm the rights and interests of a large number of Arab countries, especially Egypt, which had more than 180,000 workers in Kuwait before most of them returned to Egypt.

By all standards, adds AL-AHRAM, it is an insult to the Arabs and to Kuwait itself that some international organizations, such as the International Relief Commission, should fear that the Kuwaitis may take revenge on foreign nationals, particularly the Palestinians.

The paper goes on to say: If sympathy toward Kuwait was basically motivated by a willingness to maintain fundamental values, such as sovereignty of all states over their territories and impermissibility of using force to solve conflicts among the Arab countries, then the Kuwaiti statements affect ethics and morals, and they will live in Arab memory.

Report Discusses Opposition Parties' Consultations

PM0904103891 Cairo AL-SHAB in Arabic 2 Apr 91 pp 1, 11

[Unattributed report: "Opposition Leaders Warn of Deterioration in Internal Situation Under Emergency Law"]

[Text] Labor Party [SLP] leader Ibrahim Shukri has stated that intensive consultations are currently under way among the opposition parties with the aim of taking a unified stand on the continuation of the emergency law for the 10th year.

The opposition parties held a series of meetings over the past days and discussed internal and foreign affairs. The latest meeting was held Monday evening at the home of SLP leader Ibrahim Shukri. The conferees called for real democratic changes to end all practices restricting freedom of expression and other liberties. They emphasized that democratic reform was the basis of political reform and that the suspension of the emergency law should be the cornerstone of democratic reform.

Representatives of the opposition parties discussed the deteriorating economic conditions, high prices, and the disappearance of many commodities from the market—a matter which has been a heavy burden on and a major concern to the public.

The conferees also discussed Arab developments and called for an end to the economic sanctions against the Iraqi people, who are suffering severe shortages of food and medical supplies in the country's state of total devastation.

At the meeting, Ibrahim Shukri spoke of the dangers threatening the nation. He emphasized that the nation's enemies were still conspiring to undermine its unity, exhaust its wealth, and control its resources.

Shukri said that while the whole world, both East and West, was moving toward more freedom, democracy, and effective participation by the people in government, democratic pratice has been deteriorating in Egypt.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad Sayf al-Islam (Mulsim Brotherood); Ibrahim al-Dasuqi (Wafd Party); Mustafa Kamil Murad, Muhammad Farid Zakariya, and Hilmi Salim (Liberal Party); Rif'at al-Sa'id (Progressive Unionist Grouping Party); Farid 'Abd-al-Karim and Kamal Ahmad (Nasirites); Mahmud Amin al-'Alim and Ahmad Sharaf (Communists); and 'Abd-al-Majid Abu-Zayd (Egyptian Peace Committee).

The leaders of the political parties and forces who attended the meeting issued a statement to the political tendencies, unions, and nongovernmental organizations on the position of Egypt and the Arab nation after the war.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Interest in Ties With Egypt

NC1004205291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2008 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Apr (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, has stressed his country's interest in consolidating its relations with Egypt. Al-Bashir also expressed the hope that the ties between the two brotherly peoples develop further. His remarks came during a meeting tonight with Egypt's ambassador to Khartoum, Dr. Hasan Jad-al-Haq.

The ambassador conveyed a verbal messge from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on bilateral ties and Arab developments. Jad-al-Haq told the MENA's Khartoum correspondent that Gen. al-Bashir had asked him to convey Sudan's abiding interest in maintaining the good longstanding relations between the two peoples to President Mubarak. The ambassador leaves Khartoum tomorrow Friday for his two-week annual vacation in Cairo.

Minister Reports on Operations Against Rebels

EA1004103891 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Retired Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, state minister for defense, has asserted that the

Armed Forces hold the reins of initiative and are commanding successful military operations in the states of Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Bahr al-Ghazal to destroy rebel positions. The Armed Forces has captured a large number of rebels who have given important information on war operations. His excellency praised the Popular Defense Forces, which are playing a great role in supporting the Armed Forces. He stressed that the revolution endeavors to achieve just peace and to end the conflict in the south without foreign influence. The state minister for defense clarified that the Armed Forces had managed to destroy rebel camps in the areas of [words indistinct].

Kuwait

1,000 Iraqi Kurds Demonstrate Outside U.S. Embassy

NC1004193291 Paris AFP in English 1922 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Kuwait City, April 10 (AFP)—About 1,000 Iraqi Kurds demonstrated Wednesday in Kuwait City across from the U.S. Embassy to protest against "massacres" of their compatriots in northern Iraq. The demonstrators, flanked by Kuwaiti Army troops, called for U.S. intervention "to protect the Kurds from massacres by (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn."

"Overthrow Saddam Husayn, freedom for Kurdistan," said one of the many banners they carried. They also waved flags of some of the countries in the anti-Iraq alliance and pictures of the U.S. and Kuwaiti leaders. "We want a stop to the massacre of our brothers in Iraqi Kurdistan and domestic autonomy for the Kurds within the Iraqi republic," a demonstrator said, adding that 4,000 to 5,000 Kurds resided in Kuwait and were well treated.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), in a statement to Agence France-Presse in Kuwait said it had organized the demonstration and blasted "the comprehensive war of extermination which the fascist Iraqi regime is waging against the Kurdish people." The PUK also called on U.S. President George Bush "to urgently intervene to save the Kurdish people from their tragedy" and to "save the Kurdish refugees in Iran and Turkey."

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Comments on Aid to Islamic Movements

LD1104033991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Riyadh, 10 Apr (SPA)—In a comment on reports carried by some news media, quoting some leaders of Islamic parties in the Arab homeland, on the aid mentioned in a public statement at the beginning of holy Ramadan by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general, an official source today told SPA: These sources were right in interpreting the meaning of the statement of his highness. As a matter of fact, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has always offered assistance and aid to hundreds of Islamic societies in the world in accordance with their requests, has not accorded this assistance and aid for any political or personal purposes, nor has the Kingdom ever used this assistance for its own interests. But the supreme objective is to enable these societies to accomplish their Islamic mission as required, with the aim of gaining the grace of God alone, without expecting any thanks from anyone.

United Arab Emirates

Minister, Iranian Envoy Discuss Iraqi Refugees

LD0904160491 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 9, IRNA—The tragic situation of the Iraqi refugees and effects of the massive exodus of the Iraqi Kurds on the region were discussed in a meeting here between Iran's Ambassador in Abu Dhabi Mohammad 'Ali Hadi and United Arab Emirates State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Tuesday.

The two sides also exchanged views on the current regional developments, recent events in Iraq, the issue of homelessness of the Iraqi Muslim nation and their massive influx into Iran in particular. Failure to meet the immediate needs of the refugees will lead to an irreversible catastrophe, Hadi warned while he explained the tragic situation of over 800,000 Iraqi refugees entering Iran.

Hadi also referred to the increasing number of the Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran and called on the Abu Dhabi government to alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi refugees by extending humanitarian assistance.

Government To Send Aid to Iraqi Refugees

NC1004152691 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 10 (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] decided to despatch urgent relief aid to Iraqi refugees, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan announced here last night.

In a statement to the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM), Shaykh Hamdan said "out of humanitarian grounds and considerations, the UAE has decided to contribute to international efforts aimed at alleviating the sufferings of the Iraqi people, by sending urgent humanitarian assistance including foodstuffs." Concluding his statement, Shaykh Hamdan added that the assistance would be shipped soon.

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Regional Command Meeting

NC1104102791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Comrade leader Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's Regional Command, has chaired a meeting of the Regional Command. The discussion during the meeting centered on the current domestic, national, and international conditions and the topics on the agenda. The appropriate decisions were made regarding these issues. Defense Minister Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan attended part of the meeting.

New Ministers Sworn in Before Saddam 11 Apr

NC1104103791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid; Staff General 'Abd-al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs; Defense Minister Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan; and Lt. Gen. 'Amir Hammudi Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, were sworn in before President Saddam Husayn today.

In his directives to the ministers, President Saddam Husayn affirmed the importance of mobilizing all efforts to remove the traces of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression and the traces of the sabotage and destruction the agents have inflicted on the country's infrastructure. He also stressed the importance of giving priority to reconstruction projects and to ensuring a prosperous and secure life for all citizens. Hatim Mahmud, chief of the presidential office, attended the swearing-in ceremony.

'Aziz To Give Saddam Message to King Husayn

NC1004181391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 10 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's envoy to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of Jordan, arrived in Amman today.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz is carrying a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Husayn dealing with the strong relations between the two fraternal countries and the development of events in the Arab region, as well as issues linked to the future and security of the Arab nation.

Envoys To Deliver Saddam Messages in Arab Capitals

NC1004160691 Paris AFP in English 1552 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, April 10 (AFP)—Envoys of Saddam Husayn are to visit several Arab capitals in the next few days to deliver messages from the Iraqi president, official sources said here Wednesday.

The messages concern "the future of relations between Iraq and the Arab states" in the wake of the Gulf war and the need to face challenges threatening the Arab world, the sources said. They did not specify which countries the envoys would visit.

(In Amman, authoritative sources said Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz had arrived in the Jordanian capital for a 24-hour visit and talks with King Husayn. They said Mr. 'Aziz was to deliver a message from President Husayn.)

Jordan, along with Yemen and Sudan, backed Iraq in the Gulf war against a U.S.-led coalition, while Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Syria contributed troops to the multinational force that ousted Iraq from Kuwait.

In another development, the head of the Arab department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, said his country would participate in Arab League meetings on Iraq. In a statement published in the press, he said Arab countries were being urged to end their opposition to Iraq and settle their disagreements to face challenges threatening their existence.

Minister Hammadi, Soviet Envoy View Cooperation

NC1004144891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad. Discussion during the meeting dealt with cooperation in the information field between the two countries.

Cabinet Convenes To Discuss Reparations Plans

NC1004123791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The cabinet held its weekly session today chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi. The cabinet discussed the plans submitted by the ministries for repairing installations and services destroyed by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. The plans also provides for repairing these and other installations damaged by the sabotage of riotous and conspiratorial elements. The cabinet discussed the effects of the damage on production and public services.

The cabinet approved the general framework of these plans, which will be approved in their final form during the next cabinet session. A committee that has been formed by the cabinet will meet on Saturday to draw up the needs and priorities of these plans. The cabinet also approved its bylaws.

Envoy Submits Protest Memorandums to UN

Iranian Violations Cited

NC1104105091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] New York, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has sent a memorandum to the UN secretary general with new facts and details about Iranian violations of the cease-fire agreement between Iraq and Iran and about Iran's blatant interference in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The INA correspondent in New York has reported that Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations asked the UN secretary general to circulate the memorandum as a Security Council document.

The memorandum reads: At 0300 on 3 March 1991, four people attempted to infiltrate Iraqi territory from Iran via Badrah in Diyala Governorate. They exchanged gunfire with the Iraqi border guards. One infiltrator was killed and the others ran, leaving behind 96 Kalashnikov rifles, 63 magazines, and 1 Arabic typewriter.

At 0900 on 4 March, a group of infiltrators besieged the border guards command center in the al-Shayb area in Maysan Governorate and managed to seize some positions. At 0800 on 6 March another group of infiltrators crossed from the Iranian town of Khosrovi and attacked al-Mundhiriyah outpost in Diyala Governorate as well as the border control posts, the border compound, the residence complex, and the customs police center. Three officers and 12 noncommissioned officers from the border al-Mundhiriyah compound were taken prisoners.

The memorandum adds that the Khanaqin customs police post and the other government departments in Khanaqin were attacked by some 150 infiltrators from Iran using military vehicles.

The memorandum said that at 1930 on 6 March 1990, the border guards company in the Wasit Governorate was attacked by Iranian infiltrators who captured 20 personnel of various ranks from the company.

It added that an estimated 15 Iranian infiltrators attacked the Iraqi border guards forces in the area of the Faqqah-(al-Bazarkan)-al-Shayb junction in Maysan Governorate at 1230 on 9 March. The Iraqi forces succeeded in killing 11 infiltrators and destroying their vehicle. It then noted that approximately 300 armed infiltrators attacked the same position at 1220. They took control of the position after a fight with the Iraqi forces.

The memorandum then reported that at the same time another group of infiltrators, estimated at 500 armed persons, attacked the Iraqi al-Shayb border point and took control of it.

It added that at 1400 on 10 March 1991 infiltrators crossed to the eastern bank of Diyala River and took control of (al-Dababah) bridge.

It also reported that four Iranian soldiers were captured after infiltrating near the 'Ali police outpost in the Naft Khaneh area in Diyala Governorate on 11 March. It added that at 1220 on the same day infiltrators attacked the city of Khanaqin from the direction of Imam Baba Mahmud and the river.

The memorandum then said that at 1315 on 12 March, an Iranian helicopter flew over the (Jallat) police outpost inside Iraq's international borders in Maysan Governorate for five minutes and at low altitude, and then returned to Iranian territory.

It added that at 1400 on the same day, the Iranians opened fire on the Iraqi border guards near border marker 50. Three vehicles were damaged in the attack. It then reported that on 15 March infiltrators attacked the Iraqi forces in the area of the al-Sihah, 'Arafat, Tariq Ben-Ziyad, al-Ziyadi, Qutaybah, and al-Karmashiyah police outposts.

It said that at 2330 on 19 March the Iranian forces shelled the forward lines of the border posts in Diyala Governorate using various weapons—mortars, 107 mm artillery, and machine guns—at various times.

U.S. Overflights Denounced

NC1004153191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1510 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, 10 Apr (INA)—Iraq has again denounced the repeated violations of its airspace by U.S. combat aircraft.

Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations submitted a memorandum today to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in which he stated that formations of U.S. military aircraft, the types, velocities, and altitudes of which were specified, violated Iraqi airspace over Baghdad and other parts of central Iraq in 98 sorties on 8 April.

The memorandum warned against continuing these violations and provocations which threaten the security and peace of Iraq and its citizens. It also warned against repeatedly breaking the sound barrier over Baghdad by U.S. combat aircraft on 9 April.

The INA correspondent in New York reported that the Iraqi representative at the United Nations asked the UN secretary general to distribute the memorandum and to register it as a document of the UN Security Council.

UN Decision To Dispatch Envoy Welcomed

NC1004125891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] United Nations, 10 Apr (INA)—Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations has expressed satisfaction with the UN secretary general's decision to send a personal envoy to northern Iraq at the request of the Iraqi Government.

The INA correspondent at the United Nations said that Iraq's UN Chief Delegate 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari stressed during his meeting with journalists today that security and stability have been restored to all Iraqi areas and that there has been no gunfire in northern Iraq over the past few days. Al-Anbari said that what took place was a direct result of the inhumane measures represented in the imposition of the economic blockade and the military aggression against Iraq. He said that Iraq cooperated and continues to cooperate fully with all international organizations, foremost of which is the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The UN secretary general decided early today to appoint Belgian diplomat Dr. Eric Suy as the head of the four-member mission. The UN mission will visit the northern part of Iraq in accordance with a request by the Iraqi Government to investigate the situation there instead of relying on the series of lies and contentions propagated by the hostile imperialist circles about the situation in northern Iraq.

International Medical Aid Denounced as 'Meager'

NC1104112891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The first under secretary of the Health Ministry has called on international health organizations to increase the amount of medicine and medical equipment within Iraq.

In an interview published in AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. Shawqi Sabri Murqus said that the amount of aid given by these organizations was meager and met only a small part of Iraq's annual needs.

The Health Ministry first under secretary revealed that the saboteurs who infiltrated Iraq from across its borders transported huge quanitities of medicine and modern medical equipment to Syria and Iran. [passage omitted]

Foreign Correspondents: Situation in Baghdad Calm

NC1104093291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Foreign press correspondents who recently visited Iraq have described the situation in Baghdad as calm. The BBC correspondent said in a radio report this morning that most of the basic services have been restored to Baghadad. The correspondent pointed out that power and water lines have been restored to Baghadad areas and that the market business is flourishing.

Lebanese Report Cited on Saddam Using Mercenaries

NC1004184691 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The Lebanese magazine AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI has revealed that Saddam Husayn, head of the Iraqi regime, is using foreign mercenaries to maintain security in Baghdad. The magazine adds that Saddam prefers to keep his defeated army outside Baghdad so that its commanders will not be able to stage a military coup against him.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI adds that mercenaries from several Arab and African countries are serving in Iraqi units and are charged with the task of defending Baghdad.

Rebels Capture Missiles, Officers in Al-Basrah

LD1004114391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] According to reports from southern Iraqi cities, opposition forces have attacked the Ba'thist forces in the al-Tannumah region, near al-Basrah, capturing large quantities of arms and equipment, including a number of missiles. According to the Central News Unit, the Voice of Rebellious Iraq has announced: In an attack by the Iraqi opposition on a government center in al-Basrah, large quantities of arms and ammunition were seized and six senior Ba'thist officers, including a brigadier general, were captured.

Citizens Return to Al-Sulaymaniyah 9 Apr

NC1004094891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Al-Sulaymaniyah, 10 Apr (INA)—Well over 13,000 citizens, who were intimidated and terrorized by saboteurs and who were forced to leave their houses for the border areas, returned to al-Sulaymaniyah yesterday. The INA correspondent in the autonomous region reported that the local authorities in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate are offering every kind of assistance, including medical care, to all those returning from the Iraqi-Iranian border areas. The returnees are being transported to nearby towns and villages.

The correspondent added that the returnees expressed their happiness and joy for the return of normal life to the governorate and for the elimination of the terrorism and persecution committed by the agent gangs that devastated al-Sulaymaniyah town and committed shocking crimes. He said that a large number of citizens continue to return to their towns and villages. The returnees said that the saboteurs in the border areas are

in the grip of panic, confusion, and disputes and that their leaders have deserted them to live in luxurious hotels in Europe.

Helicopters Reportedly Fire on Kurdish Refugees

LD1104114791 Berlin ADN in German 1051 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Damascus (ADN)—Iraqi combat helicopters once again attacked Kurdish refugees this morning near the Iranian frontier. ADN has learned from a Kurdistan Front spokesman in Damascus that the helicopters fired missiles on two transit camps near Rawandoz and Halabjah. Halabjah is about 120 km south of the 36th parallel, which the U.S. presidential spokesman named yesterday as the limit for air operations by the Iraqi Armed Forces.

There had been bitter fighting north of Salah al-Din between Saddam Husayn's land forces and peshmergas. The Kurdish guerrillas put three tanks out of action there. The headquarters of the Kurdish leader Masud Barzani were in Salah al-Din, about 40 km from Irbil. According to the spokesman, the peshmergas are in the process of regrouping in the mountains after the army's lightning offensive. They want, above all, to build defensive lines at the Iranian and Turkish borders so the hundreds of thousands of civilians who have fled to those areas can be protected.

Senior Air Force Officer Suspected Murdered

PM1004105491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Apr 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Did You Know?"]

[Text] Did you know that Air Brigadier General Lu'ay Naji Sa'id, who was a member of the Iraqi delegation to the Safwan talks with the UN legitimate forces command delegation, was found dead on the road between the Baghdad suburban areas of al-Dawla'i and al-Taji, and that accusing fingers are being pointed at the organ run by Saddam's brother, Sab'awi?

Former Defense Minister To Lead Opposition Forces

NC0304100991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Citing political sources within the Iraqi opposition, AL-MUSAWWAR has reported that Major General Hasan al-Naqib, former Iraqi defense minister and a leader of the pan-Arab opposition to the Saddam Husayn regime, will go to the Iraqi al-Mawsil Governorate to lead two Iraqi Army divisions to initiate military operations against the Iraqi regime.

In its edition to appear the day after tomorrow, Friday, the publication says that agreement has been reached among leaders of the pan-Arab trend to open a third military front against the Saddam regime in Mosul in addition to the southern and northern fronts.

The sources consider the military opening of this front as a prelude to establishing the pan-Arab trend in an effective position within the political and military fields of the Iraqi opposition.

The sources said that, after continuous meetings in the Syrian capital, Iraqi opposition leaders in Damascus, foremost of whom are Hasan al-'Alawi, Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Naqib, Talib Shabib, and Dr. Fadl al-Ansari, have decided to call on all pan-Arab and democratic forces to make a collective effort to assess the outcome of the Beirut conference and to unify all efforts of the pan-Arab elements to support the military measure scheduled to begin within the next few days.

Al-Ta'mim Governor Views Services, Sabotage

NC0904152891 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[By Salam al-Shamma' and Khalid al-Hadidi]

[Text] Karkuk—Al-Ta'mim Governor Hashim Hasan al-Majid has asserted that life has returned to normal in the governorate and that relief convoys arrive every day to meet the citizens' needs.

In a statement to the AL-JUMHURIYAH team, he said that water and electricity services are now meeting more than 50 percent of the citizen's needs in the city. He added that the destroyed water purification plant is now under repair and that once repairs are completed, a greater percentage of the city's water needs can be met. He noted that telephone lines were ready to resume services throughout the governorate. He also said that the municipalities in the governorate were working around the clock, except for a two-hour rest period for employees. He stressed that the agent saboteurs had destroyed the city's installations such as electricity and telephone transformers, pylons, and power lines. They also destroyed the trees that beautify the city, and a large number of private and government vehicles that were parked on the streets. He added that the debris and destroyed vehicles had been removed from the streets.

The al-Ta'mim governor also announced that daily convoys bringing large quantities of foodstuffs are arriving in the governorate to meet the citizens' needs. He said that supplies such as vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural crops are abundant in the city's markets. This, he said, proves that normal life and stability have returned to all the cities and the governorate.

He added that television transmission reaches the whole governorate from 1700 to 0200. He noted: Many citizens have returned to the governorate over the past three days, especially after the cities of Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah were purged of the agent saboteurs. He said that he toured the city and visited the citizens' houses to acquaint himself with their conditions and to

deal with their needs and problems. He added that they expressed joy over the destruction of the wicked sedition that was aimed at destroying Iraq.

On supplying the governorate's citizens with fuel, he said that fuel is arriving in adequate quantities and work is underway to distribute it in accordance with previous policies, pointing out that gas will also be available after electric power stations are repaired within the next few days, when gas plants resume their services.

Asked about the citizen's movement within the governorate, he said that the competent authorities in the governorate are trying to overcome part of that problem, which was caused by the destruction of large numbers of government and private vehicles, and the stealing of others.

Hashim Hasan al-Majid also affirmed that all the government departments and services institutions resumed normal activity as of last Saturday, that classes in schools and institutes have resumed, and will resume shortly at other schools once the buildings are repaired.

Concluding his statement, he called on the citizens in the al-Ta'mim Governorate to work hard and cooperate to rebuild what was destroyed in their city, stressing that every one should work diligently in accordance with leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions.

In another development the commander of one of the Republican Guard units which participated in purging al-Ta'mim Governorate asserted that most of Karkuk's residential quarters and areas have been combed and searched and that various weapons including antitank guns, four-barrelled guns, equipment for blasting buildings and bridges, and quantities of mines were seized. He said that the weapons seized from the saboteurs were made either in the United States or Iran.

He added: We also seized a large number of printing and copying machines which had been brought from abroad to be used by the agent communists for printing leaflets. He added that large numbers of hostile slogans printed on foreign presses and explicit, offensive photographs were also discovered.

Commander of the unit Colonel Rafi' Mahmud Rajab added that his unit also participated in purging the city of Irbil and seized weapons and equipment for which convoys of trucks were needed to transport them. The weapons and equipment, he said, are of different origins and were brought from Iran along with the agent saboteurs. He pointed out that most of the slogans written on the city's walls were signed by the agent Communist Party and were glorifying Iran.

He also said that many boxes of Iranian fruit carrying pictures of some Iranian officials were also discovered. The commander of the unit added that a fighter captured a saboteur who was wearing women's clothes and makeup to change his appearance. He also said that Iranian women entrusted with cooking food for the agent saboteurs and spying on and searching the city's women were arrested.

He said that during the purging of Irbil he saw large quantities of alcohol. He also saw sacks of sugar and other foodstuffs such as rice and cereals that had been looted from the citizens and strategic warehouses in Irbil being used as a barrier to protect them from bullets.

Commentary Discusses Media Image of 'Intifadah'

LD1004132291 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Unattributed commentary from the "Arab and International Stands" program]

[Text] It is important that the true features of the Iraqi people's intifadah against Saddam and his gang should be clearly defined, so that it may appear in its true and realistic nature free from the image which the coverage of some of the Western information media sometimes tends to give it.

These media concentrate particularly on the annihilation operations waged by the Saddam forces against the Kurds and the savage repression by these forces of the Shiites, as though the whole conflict was between Saddam and these two factions alone, to the exclusion of all other factions. The fact of the matter is, however, that the Iraqi people as a whole, with all their factions, communities, and individuals, headed by the Sunnis, have risen since the very first moment in a comprehensive and massive revolution of wrath against Saddam and his regime. The confrontation is still raging and continuing between him and all these factions.

The revolution erupted spontaneously, without any organization or grouping and without any organized leadership to instigate or steer the masses. This is because everyone was brimming with anger and ready to explode at any moment.

The moment came for three main reasons, which together constituted the fuse for the explosion. The first reason was the return of the withdrawing Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Bearing all the bitter signs of defeat, they told those closest to them how Saddam packed them in shelters in the worst conditions, thus making them psychologically and practically defeated in advance, even before the war started. They also told how they were defending a personal cause centering on the aspirations of one man, intoxicated by his ambitions, which conflict with their well-entrenched national affiliations.

The second reason was the emergence of a big gap between the exaggerated promises and the contemptible reality. Until the very last moment, Saddam continued to talk about certain victory and his mythical might. Even the biggest of the world powers could not confront this or endure the overwhelming and sweeping losses it would suffer if it dared to take on Saddam's army.

Then the truth emerged, showing an army devastated in its first land confrontation in the battlefield, completely collapsed at the end of the 100-hour war, and a regime retreating in disgrace and humiliation, accepting all the conditions of surrender dictated to it and imposed upon it.

The third reason came as fuel to the fire: the absence of a firm authority and its collapse as a result of the shock of defeat. Thus the masses of the Iraqi people came out, having rid themselves of the chronic and entrenched fear of authority and its sanguinary ruthlessness. Thus revolution erupted in al-Basrah and spread from there to the other towns in the south and in the north, until it spread like fire into the Kurdish regions and, finally, swept into Baghdad.

Perhaps what made events center more fully on the areas of the Kurds and the Shiites in particular was the fact that Baghdad, where the Sunnis are concentrated, was subjected to a ferocious and intensive deployment of the regime's tools of repression and destruction. The majority of the Republican Guards, who are trained to combat any intensive popular uprising in Baghdad, are stationed there.

Furthermore, the regime has, since its assumption of power, turned Baghdad into a police citadel within the walls of which the Iraqis were kept as prisoners, captives, and vanquished.

For these reasons, the resistance operations took place in the areas of the Kurds and the Shiites more than in any other areas, and consequently the annihilation operations were more pronounced in the areas of the Kurds and the Shiites than anywhere else.

This is what made the language used by the Western information media's coverage of Iraq's calamity appear almost to imply that the war of annihilation waged by Saddam was confined to the Kurds and the Shiites, whereas everyone in Iraq without exception was its victim.

At the same time, it must be stated that the revolution in Iraq is not a factional one in any way whatsoever. It is a nationalist and national revolution, united by a single common cause.

The Kurds may be seeking a reasonable degree of self-rule in the areas where they live. They did, however, participate in the conference of opposition forces which was held in Beirut last mongh on the theme: Our unity is the guarantee of our salvation from dictatorship, the safeguard of the unity of our homeland, and the victory for the alternative to be chosen by our people.

Furthermore, the Kurdish leaders have declared that they are opposed to the decimation of Iraq, and that they support the establishment of democracy and self-rule within the framework of Iraq's borders.

Some of the Shiite may have aspirations which center in one way or another on a certain country. They are a minority, however. The majority of the Shiites cherish their nationalist feelings as Arabs and consider Iraq as their homeland, the safety and territorial integrity of which should be safeguarded. They, too, pledged to protect the unity of the homeland at the opposition conference in Beirut.

In view of this, all forces, trends, communities, and factions brought together by the current revolution in Iraq against Saddam and his gang are bound together by a common feeling of Iraqi identity, which transcends all communal feuds and tendencies whatever they may be.

What has helped to assert this identity is the fact that Iraq as a whole is endowed with oil, agricultural, and mineral wealth that has not yet been fully utilized and that could make it a strong and economically prosperous state. Iraq was prevented from becoming a strong state in the true sense of the term by Saddam himself and the gambles on which he squandered Iraq's wealth and resources, starting with the eight-year war with Iran, and followed by his manic invasion of Kuwait. In addition, there is his greed, which is governed by the tyrant's desire to amass wealth. This has prompted him to squander a colossal part of the wealth of the Iraqi people and smuggle wealth abroad.

This fact was proven by international investigations, corroborated by official documents. It has been established that he set up 52 companies all over the world as a facade to camouflage his smuggling activities and that he smuggled 40 billion dollars out of Iraq, which he had placed in private accounts in banks abroad.

The Iraqi identity was further affirmed by the fact that the hopes and aspirations of the Iraqi citizens, whatever their affiliations, received the same treatment from the Saddam regime. This extremely repressive autocratic regime has imposed a total ban on the citizen's right to express his views freely and to share in the progress of his homeland, or even merely to enjoy fair opportunities in matters of employment and promotion or feel secure among his family and inside his home.

Thus the personality of the entire Iraqi homeland, wherever it was, has been trampled upon. Saddam does not distinguish between Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis.

The Iraqi identity has been further entrenched in the hearts of all the various angry factions in their revolution against Saddam as a result of the way he has disgraced their national dignity in their own eyes, as well as in the eyes of the other countries of the world. The regime in Baghdad, which represents the people of Iraq, speaks for them, and acts as a symbol for them, came under the control of a handful of individuals who have proven beyond all doubt that they are a minority, a group of professional criminals, outlaws, murderers, assassins, robbers, and looters of the property and wealth of others. This began to cause embarrassment to the Iraqi and a sensitivity in his dealings with individuals of other countries.

From all these integrated and intwined factors, the true features of the Iraqi people's intifidah are formed. They should be always within sight of the Western information media. It is an intifidah of a people whose factions and affiliations are suffering from oppression.

Furthermore, although it is true that it concentrates sometimes in the areas of the Kurds, Saddam's war is clearly and definitely aimed at the destruction of the aspirations, hopes, and expectations of all the Iraqis. It does not distinguish between one Iraqi and another in terms of the sanguinary ferocity of the methods it uses and the material and moral destruction it causes.

U.S. Said Using Iranians for Operations in South

NC1004151891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Baghdad—It seems that the U.S.-Western-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq is continuing and has taken more than one form. Perhaps, the most prominent form is the secret intelligence work through the Western intelligence organs which have directly participated in the events that took place in the north and south of Iraq.

Today, the United States, along with Iran, Turkey, and the Western states, violates all international norms, implements the conspiracy under the cover of the Security Council within sight of the entire world, and directly interferes in Iraq's domestic affairs in its own way and style.

Informed sources have told SAWT AL-SHA'B in Baghdad that the U.S. forces, are using a group of Iranian hooligans and soldiers who entered Iraq but were not able to leave for Iran in various operations and onslaughts on Iraqi villages and cities in southern Iraq.

Iraq, which foiled the plan and conspiracy, today imposes state authority and law over all its territories, and is practicing a high degree of self-restraint. Today, the most important slogan of the Iraqi people and leadership under which all people work is how to preserve Iraq—land and people. Iraq's confrontation of all conspiracies is constantly escalating. Foreign intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs increases the struggling Iraqi people's determination to thwart the conspiracy and adhere to the struggling leadership.

On the Arab level, Muhammad Ahmad Sulayman, Yemeni minister of housing and urban planning, arrived in Baghdad yesterday. On arrival, the Yemeni minister told SAWT AL-SHA'B that he is carrying a letter to President Saddam Husayn from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the latest developments on the Arab and international levels. This is the second visit by an Arab official following the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

Iraqi television last night aired an interview with one of the Iranian soldiers who infiltrated into Iraq and killed soldiers from Iran [as published] during the riots that took place in southern Iraq. This coincided with Sa'dun Hammadi's strong caution to Iran and Turkey against continued intervention in Iraq's internal affairs.

Al-Da'wah's Al-Rabi'i Discusses Saudi Visit

PM1004103491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Apr 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Al-Rabi'i Denies All Remarks Attributed to Him Concerning the Aim of His Visit to Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] Riyadh, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Dr. Muwaffaq al-Rabi'i, member of the Iraqi al-Da'wah Party, has categorically denied the remarks attributed to him concerning the aim of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In a statement yesterday Dr. al-Rabi'i categorically denied the remarks attributed to him by the BBC Arabic Section regarding an interview with him which it broadcast in the evening on the day before yesterday concerning the visit he is making to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He added that the claim that the radio attributed to him—namely, that Saudi Arabia is in the process of providing military facilities to the Iraqi opposition—is absolutely unfounded. He said that his interview with the radio—according to the text carried by the radio itself later—said that the visit was of a humanitarian and informational nature and intended to support the Iraqi people, who are facing a massacre.

Dr. al-Rabi'i repeated on the program his categorical denial of anything concerning military facilities. He said that suspicion was aroused by the radio's insistence on fabricating the story about the military aid and including it in the news.

He added that the radio apologized by telephone for the error—which occurred because of confusion between the interview and another report—and promised to correct it. He also said that that convinced him of the existence of an ill-intentioned aim to block the provision of humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people at a time when they are facing a great predicament.

Concluding his statement, Dr. al-Rabi'i expressed his regret for these attempts to distort, whose aim is to drive a wedge between parties that are working together for the sake of a single humanitarian aim and to damage the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's reputation.

Colleges, Institutes To Resume Studies 20 Apr

NC0404195191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1619 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has announced that studies will be

resumed in all technical colleges and institutes on 20 April 1991. [passage omited]

Minister Says New Publications Bill Under Study

NC1004192691 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 91

[From the "News and Reports" program]

[Text] Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said that a new publications bill is currently under consideration. He affirmed that the new bill will guarantee journalists' ability to obtain and use information to raise the standard of the Iraqi press.

The culture and information minister called for [word indistinct] between the press and the journalists to achieve a progressive cultural standard. During a meeting with the Iraqi journalists union council yesterday, he affirmed that his ministry has begun formulating general guidelines for developing Iraqi information in a manner that will ensure it is raised to the standard attained by the media in developed countries.

The culture and information minister noted what the Iraqi journalists union can offer in the field of professional development and mobilization of press capabilities. He explained that [words indistinct] among the various information media will lead to the creation of a state of [word indistinct].

The culture and information minister said: It is necessary for journalists to devote efforts to secure information [words indistinct] and not to depend on the state for this.

Political and media observers agree that the culture and information minister's statement is part of the new cultural development process and [words indistinct] methods of work. It also reflects the activation of civil liberties, pluralism, the permanent Constitution, and freedom of the press which President Saddam Husayn heralded in his historic speech on [words indistinct].

The observers affirmed that the broad steps which have been made by forming a cabinet and [words indistinct] many of the executive authorities is regarded as an important beginning of the new [words indistinct] era.

Daily Papers Comment on Country-Wide Situation

UN-Controlled Area Condemned

NC1104085991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH strongly condemns the scandalous proposal to set up a UN-controlled region in northern Iraq. The paper describes the proposal as illegal and a flagrant violation of international law, as well as intervention in Iraq's affairs.

In an editorial today, the paper, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that Iraq categorically rejects this proposal and will resist it with all means, particularly since Iraq had adopted all necessary practical measures to resolve this fabricated problem. AL-THAWRAH adds that the United States, Britain, and France have failed in their attempts to pretend that they are defending humanity and that they are offering humanitarian aid to the refugees. They will not deceive anyone because the Iraqi people—Kurds, Arabs, and minorities—realize well that those who imposed an economic blockade and dropped hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and missiles on them lack humanitarian feelings.

The paper points out that the Iraqi Kurds did not flee to Iran or Turkey because they wanted to. It was the gangs of sabotage who forced them across the Iranian-Iraqi and the Iraqi-Turkish borders to create what they now call the refugee problem.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say that before the Security Council adopted its unjust resolution 688, Iraq had called for bringing a UN mission to investigate the real situation in northern Iraq. But the United States, Britain, and France intentionally ignored Iraq's official call, and the Security Council made no efforts to listen to this call. Thus, it is clear that the so-called refugee problem has been fabricated.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Sees 'Conspiracy'

NC1004115091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the events in the southern, central, and northern regions of Iraq were part of an international conspiracy and were not really inspired from inside.

In an editorial headlined "suspect calls to encroach on Iraq's sovereignty," AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the events which followed the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression constituted a new international plot which had been well orchestrated in the White House, Tel Aviv, and 10 Downing Street. The paper points out that the features of this international plot, which aims to partition Iraq, have now become crystal clear. After Iraq had blocked the road before the enemies by accepting the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait, the riotous elements coming from over the borders started to implement the new phase of the plot.

But the planners of the acts of sabotage were taken aback by the swift Iraqi reply and by the way Iraq dealt with the new changes, curbed these acts, and dealt a severe blow to those who had engineered this plot when it ended the criminals' control on Iraq's northern towns.

The paper goes on to say: But the foreign enemies again started to exhibit their ill-intentions when they were very disappointed to see that Iraq had managed to wipe out

the sedition. They resorted to organizing a frenzied media campaign which resulted in issuing the UN Security Council's infamous resolution 688 which constitutes a new violation of the UN Charter and a flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of a UN member state.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: We realize that this resolution will not be the last in the chain of despicable acts by major countries which control the UN Security Council. We believe that the aggressive acts and the oppressive media offensive will continue for years to come. The suspect calls by the European group for finding a region outside the legitimate authority in Iraq are only one of the new methods used by the enemies to bring pressure to bear on Iraq.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the United States, which always led the plotters to harm Iraq, has at last found those who would express its views so that it alone will not be responsible for the bad resolutions adopted by the Security Council.

Shamir on Outcome of Baker Visit

TA1004185491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Imanu'el H: lperin in Jerusalem "this afternoon"—recorded]

[Text] [Halperin] Mr. Prime Minister, after Baker's second visit to Jerusalem, do you now know in no uncertain terms that the Arab world, or part of it, is ready to enter negotiations with Israel?

[Shamir] The answer is no. We will only know that after Baker meets with them and holds serious talks with the representatives of several Arab countries. Only then will we know whether they mean to reach serious negotiations and a new phase in the peace process. We will know it soon, in the coming days, I think.

[Halperin] Will Baker return on Friday, perhaps?

[Shamir] There is no knowledge that he intends to return. In the wake of the rumors reported by the media, I asked him, and he said he does not think so. He intends to fly to the United States on Friday.

[Halperin] Were the agreements achieved here with James Baker consolidated into a binding joint Israeli-American document that would serve as a political foundation for the future?

[Shamir] There are no documents today, and there is no room for drawing up any documents, because things are in the process of discussion and formulation. Therefore, there is no point in crystallizing a document before we hear the Arabs' responses. It would be worthless.

[Halperin] Is there agreement concerning the opening encounter, at least?

[Shamir] There is agreement in principle, and even more than that; there is accord on the details of several matters.

[Halperin] What details?

[Shamir] About additional steps.

[Halperin] Could you perhaps share the information about these details with us?

[Shamir] Well, the issues are known. We are talking about a certain hitherto unknown kind of encounter with the participation of Israel, its neighbors, perhaps other Arab countries.

[Halperin] And a Palestinian delegation?

[Shamir] And Palestinian representatives.

[Halperin] In a Jordanian framework?

[Shamir] Maybe, it has not been finalized yet. The encounter will be held under the already discussed auspices of the two superpowers. This move can, in my opinion, contribute a lot. It is a new, additional framework for dialogue.

[Halperin] One of the obstacles is the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. What formula did you and the Americans reach—if any—to build on?

[Shamir] We do have a formula, we do have a formula.

[Halperin] Camp David?

[Shamir] Naturally. The State of Israel has accepted the gist of Resolutions 242 and 338 as agreed on and implemented in the Camp David accords. We must not forget: The Camp David accords were endorsed and put in practice a long time after Resolution 242—over 10 or 11 years later.

[Halperin] And the Americans are willing to do that? To refer to Camp David in that context?

[Shamir] No, no; this is our position, this is not the American stance. We are familiar with the American position; we do not want to hear it, we reject it. I am referring to their position on the territories and so forth. At Camp David it was said that the agreements are based on Resolution 242, and nevertheless, the accords contain not one word about withdrawal from territories, except for the Sinai, of course.

[Halperin] You mean that the disparity between Israel and the United States on this point endures, that there is no agreement concerning the interpretation.

[Shamir] We are not seeking agreement on the interpretation. This is the Israeli interpretation. It will be noted explicitly, however, that there is Resolution 242 and there are various interpretations. Just as there are Arab interpretations and American interpretations, there is the interpretation that binds Israel.

[Halperin] Has a list with the names of Palestinian notables from the territories with whom Israel is ready to talk emerged from the talks?

[Shamir] All these issues are being discussed, they are being discussed. They have not been crystallized yet, but there are various details, lists, and so forth.

[Halperin] Have the proposed elections, which were part of the peace initiative, been taken off the agenda altogether?

[Shamir] It is not being discussed at this stage. It has been mentioned, and it remains in the background.

[Halperin] While here, Baker voiced strident criticism of the Israeli building drive in the territories. This issue as an obstacle to peace was again mentioned. Will you be ready to take this American stand into consideration? For instance, to tell Ari'el Sharon to reduce the scope of construction?

[Shamir] Look, this issue is in no way connected with the negotiations between us and the Arabs. There is no connection. It is an internal Israeli issue, and no one in Israel, in the Israeli Government, doubts our right to build houses and so forth in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

[Halperin] You are referring to the implementation of that right.

[Shamir] Yes, the implementation of that right. Furthermore, no one in any past government in Israel decided or made a commitment to abstain from further construction in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and nothing like that will be done in the future. We will continue building there.

Rejects Separate Palestinian Delegation

TA1104043091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Israel will not agree to negotiate with a separate Palestinian delegation and prefers that representatives from the territories be included in a Jordanian delegation or an Arab delegation. This was stated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in his talks yesterday with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. A Voice of Israel reporter says that Shamir explained that the granting of a similar status to the delegations from Arab states and a Palestinian delegation is unacceptable to Israel because it would give the Palestinian delegation the status of a state in the making.

The Voice of Israel reporter adds that Israel and the United States also disagree over the connection between the Palestinian representatives and the PLO. Israel says that if a Palestinian representative declares during the talks that he is coordinating or has been appointed by the PLO, then the negotiations will stop. Israel did not accept the U.S. interpretation that any such announcement by a Palestinian representative was only lip service to the PLO and what was important was the willingness of Palestinians to participate in the peace process.

At Odds With Levi

TA1104104391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said this morning that Israel has agreed in principle to an independent Palestinian delegation, but Prime Minister Shamir disagreed. The dispute emerged this morning at the meeting of the inner cabinet [Ministerial Committee on National Security Affairs]. Jack Katzenell has more:

Foreign Minister Levi told the inner cabinet Israel would prefer to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but has agreed in principle to an independent Palestinian delegation, provided Israel approves each of the participants, but Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon said Prime Minister Shamir had said Israel is opposed to an independent Palestinian delegation. Which is the government's position?, Sharon asked.

We do not want nor do we agree to an independent Palestinian delegation, the prime minister said. Sharon said he was pleased with the prime minister's stand and saw this as an achievement of his own.

David Levi, however, retorted: I want to make it clear: There is an agreement in principle. We prefer a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but in the Israeli initiative of May 1989 we agreed to an independent Palestinian delegation, although negotiations have to be conducted on the names of the participants. Levi added that the United States agrees that Palestinian exiles and East Jerusalem residents cannot participate in the delegation. An American diplomatic source refused to comment on that report.

The foreign minister reported that Secretary Baker raised the question of settlements in the territories, and Levi told him Israel has the right to establish settlements. There can be no argument about this, Levi said. It is not a matter for discussion.

Secretary Baker asked Defense Minister Moshe Arens whether Israel would agree to halt settlement activity if the Arabs agree to drop the boycott. Arens replied that there is no connection between the settlements and the peace process.

Nine Points of Agreement With U.S. Said Reached

TA1104153391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi today briefed the inner cabinet on the nine issues on which the United States and Israel have achieved accord in connection with the continuation of the political process.

It was agreed that the establishment of a Palestinian state is not supposed to be the final outcome of the political process. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the United States and Israel agree on the matter of a two-track approach to negotiations; that the Palestinian representation will include only residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza on whom agreement will be reached; that the United States does not demand that the delegation include a representative from East Jerusalem or from abroad; that Israel is not called upon to hold a dialogue with the PLO; and that the United States will not hold such a dialogue either. It was also agreed that there will not be one single interpretation of Resolution 242. Washington will announce that several interpretations exist, and that Israel has a right to its own interpretation.

Minister Levi stressed that the agreements have removed most of the obstacles that had brought the political process to a standstill in the past, and that they have already created favorable reactions in Europe that are bound to result in various benefits, including economic ones.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 11 April carries a similar report by Dov Gilhar, which adds the following details: "UN Resolution 242 will be negotiated at the end of the process between the parties. In the first stage, Palestinian self-rule will be negotiated. Three years later, negotiations on a permanent settlement will be launched. The Soviet Union will upgrade its relations with Israel to full diplomatic ties and will accept the basic principles of the process."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1435 GMT on 11 April reports: "The prime minister's bureau and the foreign minister's bureau claim that, although Shamir said in the inner cabinet that he prefers a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, there is no disagreement between the two men. Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says that Shamir, too, avers that Israel and the United States have agreed on a Palestinian representation within the framework of a separate delegation to the talks. Shamir noted in the inner cabinet meeting, however, that it would be preferable if the delegation were within a Jordanian-Palestinian framework."]

'Secret Visit' Said Involved

TA1104093491 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Apr 91 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] The understandings that seemed to have been reached in the talks in Jerusalem with James Baker over the last few days were agreed to in advance during a secret visit to the United States by Justice Minister Dan Meridor approximately two weeks ago.

Among other things, the United States agreed to defer discussion of the Jerusalem issue until the final stage of the settlement involving Israel and the Palestinians, thus accepting the Israeli position on the exclusion of Palestinians from East Jerusalem in negotiations on self-rule in the territories. Political circles in Jerusalem emphasized that this is a substantial change in the U.S. position since the Camp David agreements, indicating that the United States has walked the extra mile toward Israel.

The agreements reached during Meridor's visit to Washington, thanks also to concerted efforts by Ambassador Zalman Shoval, made Baker's Jerusalem trip possible. Shamir decided to send Meridor at the height of the U.S. preparations for a new initiative to renew the peace process in the region.

During his three-day visit to Washington, Meridor held talks with Secretary of State James Baker as well as with Dennis Ross. Senior emissaries on behalf of Egyptian President Mubarak and King Husayn were also in Washington at about the same time.

Meridor's mission was meant to obtain answers to several questions Shamir presented to Baker during the latter's first visit to Jerusalem, in a bid to make it easier for Israel to join the process. In this way, Shamir was trying to reach a coordinated stand with the United States, rather than find himself in the same situation as last year, when Baker presented his questions and the Israeli noes led to the dissolution of the unity government. Washington realized that if peace with Israel is desired, the United States will have to take the government's basic guidelines into consideration.

In the two separate meetings Meridor and Shoval held, which were formulated as working papers, six points were accomplished:

—The central agreement was that in the interim stage, the separate Palestinian administration (the autonomy) will apply to the territories only. Therefore, East Jerusalem residents and Palestinians in exile would not be interlocutors.
—Baker agreed, with President Bush's consent, that the process will be founded on the Israeli peace initiative, in accordance with the two-track approach—namely, vis-a-vis the Arab countries, and vis-a-vis the Palestinians.
—The phased approach was endorsed, along with a U.S. proposal that the term autonomy be replaced with the term self-rule, so as to make things more convenient for the Arabs.
—An understanding was reached that a Palestinian state is not meant to be the final outcome of the process.
—A U.S. pledge was obtained that Israel will not be forced to engage in negotiations with the PLO.
—The concept of an international conference was rejected, and a regional conference accepted instead. [passage omitted]

Shamir Aide on Peace, Palestinian Delegation

TA1004152891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good day, Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general.

[Ben-Aharon] A very good day to you.

[Friedman] Observing the satisfaction expressed in the wake of Baker's visit here, and reading about the long series of accords the two sides have achieved, can we say we have gained the Americans' support? Has the United States adopted all—or most—of Israel's basic principles concerning the framework, method, and nature of the peace process?

[Ben-Aharon] I wish I could be as optimistic as you sound. We have made an ultimate effort—that is, the prime minister did—to deliver the goods to the Americans. The Americans, in their role of mediators, are trying to obtain as much as possible from each side, after which they review the total of their achievements and see whether the differences can be bridged and whether

progress can be made toward the real goal, which is the regional encounter in the wake of which we will embark on the true goal—simultaneous direct negotiations with the Arab countries and with Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in accordance with the two-track approach.

[Friedman] I wanted to ask you: Do the Americans have an outlook, an ideology on the issue of these negotiations, or are they simply trying to locate common denominators? Does their approach say that where they are concerned, the sides can compromise on anything as long as the process moves forward?

[Ben-Aharon] They have no ideology; they are quite pragmatic. However, they too have a stockpile of stands they had adopted in the past which, to our regret, present an obstacle. We all remember that after the Six-Day War, and again in 1982 in a plan named after former President Reagan, the Americans took a stand that works against our interests, because the Arabs are liable to seize upon elements of the Americans' past resolutions to claim that the approach should be based on a territory-for-peace formula and Resolution 242; that the Camp David accords should be ignored; and other such things. In such an event, we will face many difficulties. That is why we struggled with all our might to explain and convince the Americans that a new leaf should be turned over to be based on negotiations without preconditions. That new leaf should be founded upon the positive layers already achieved, that is, the peace agreement with Egypt and the Camp David accords, which were cosigned by both the United States and Egypt.

[Levi] Baker is in Egypt, and we hear that the PLO rejects the notion of a regional conference. Egypt is not enthusiastic about it, and Syria, too, rejects it. To what extent will this harm the chances for negotiations?

[Ben-Aharon] The Arab countries have an edge over us in that they are ruled by one man who has a much freer hand in devising tactics than we do in democratic Israel. Why am I saying this? Because prior to the secretary of state's arrival, they are understandably saying that certain concepts are unacceptable to them and conveying a stance rejecting positions Israel supported in the wake of talks with the United States. As said, it is merely a matter of tactics. After this round, we will see to what extent the the United States was successful in bridging gaps.

As for the PLO, we have been trying to convince the United States to ignore it altogether. Why? Because we will not deal with that element either directly or indirectly. If we achieve the goal of removing the PLO from the process altogether, there will be a chance to make progress with Palestinians living here with us in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Friedman] We have thus reached the question of Palestinian representation to the talks. There is an assumption, which is acceptable to both us and the United States, that this representation should be made up through accord on the names of delegates. Would it be correct to assume that Israel will reject every name whose owner resides in East Jerusalem?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes, well, this is another issue on which we insisted. Permit me not to divulge details, but Israel's stand, which evolved in the previous round of talks which culminated in the dissolution of the national unity government, is well known. We have not deviated from that stand.

[Levi] The question is whether the United States has accepted this stand.

[Ben-Aharon] Americans are pragmatic. They try to take everything we can offer, and then they see whether the points can be used to bridge the differences. As Mikha [Friedman] said, they proffer no ideological position. They do have a stand of their own, but at this stage, they abstain from voicing it. It is good, because it allows for flexibility capable of bridging the gaps.

As for us, our stance is as follows: Jerusalem is not an issue for negotiations. Period.

[Friedman] It was reported that James Baker expressed displeasure at actions attributed to Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon on the issue of the construction of thousands of housing units in the territories. Is it true that Shamir—as reported—indeed told Baker that there is no Israeli Government approval for the construction of these thousands of housing units, and that without such approval, they will not be built?

[Ben-Aharon] The United States mentioned the recent statements about different activities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We explained—I believe the foreign minister, the defense minister, and naturally the prime minister did—that we will not prevent Jews from settling in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and that the settlement activity will continue. We further said that we will not direct Soviet immigrants to those areas.

[Friedman] Yes, but as you yourself have read in the press, the the United States obtained some official Construction and Housing Ministry documents. The facts in these papers cannot be evaded. They explicitly detail the number of housing units being built for immigrants.

[Ben-Aharon] Well, there are various documents, but the government's policy is clear, and all the relevant ministries will act in accordance with the government policy. I believe the construction and housing minister himself said so as recently as this morning.

[Levi] Will James Baker return to Israel at the end of this week?

[Ben-Aharon] No, nothing was said about it. Nothing can be ruled out, though, because as the secretary said several times, the United States wishes to take advantage of what he termed the window of opportunity so as to preserve the momentum. Therefore, I do not rule out the possibility that when he returns home, he may decide on

another round of talks. In this round, however, nothing was decided about his return to Jerusalem.

[Friedman] Since we began this interview with the regional conference, perhaps it will be fitting to end with the same issue. Is today's YEDI'OT AHARONOT front-page report true? It says that Israel suggested to Baker that the conference be held in Turkey, rather than Cairo, as previously discussed.

[Ben-Aharon] Turkey?

[Friedman] Turkey. This is what the newspaper says.

[Ben-Aharon] I can only say that we agreed to the regional conference because, as a concept, it is compatible with the government's policy of opposing the notion of an international conference which is UN-oriented, which is institutionalized, and which interferes in the content and method of negotiations. The other conference is acceptable to us. It has the additional advantage of us meeting the Americans halfway. All that remains now is to see whether the plan materializes and whether an understanding with our Arab neighbors can be attained.

[Friedman] Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] And I thank you very much.

On Delegation, Settlement Drive

TA1104060691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general, by anchor Me'ir Einstein and political correspondent Arye Golan—live; words in italics are in English]

[Text] [Einstein] Is Israel in fact rejecting any possible separate Palestinian delegation, leaving us, as far as Israel is concerned, with only two options: Palestinians within a Jordanian delegation or a single Arab delegation?

[Ben-Aharon] I would rather not go into the fine details now, for the simple reason that at this very moment the secretary of state is busy with attempts to mediate between the Israeli and the Arab stands. That is why everything he hears here should not be considered the final word or the plan that must enable the opening of negotiations. He went to Cairo and will go to other Arab capitals. The prime minister's message, delivered through the secretary of state to the Arab countries, was that now, if indeed an opportunity has been created, the Arabs must provide proof that they are forsaking the path of hostility, belligerency, and support for the PLO and that all of this must be translated into practical steps in order to achieve the breakthrough we all hope for.

[Golan] Which has not happened yet?

[Ben-Aharon] Which I hope has just been born and is in its initial stages. Now comes the real test. I believe that in his talks with the secretary of state, the prime minister went an extra mile to show again that we adhere to the Camp David agreements, which are the cornerstone of any feasible arrangement between us and our neighbors.

[Golan] Mr. Ben-Aharon, you speak of the extra mile Shamir has gone. The question is whether the opposition to a separate Palestinian delegation does not, in fact, constitute a tactical toughening of the Israeli position. After all, last year we agreed to a Palestinian delegation, and the argument was over its composition: with or without East Jerusalem residents and deportees.

[Ben-Aharon] The comparison with last year is inappropriate. Last year Jordan was out of the process and, for this reason, the two tracks we talked about did not include Jordan. Attempts have been made to begin some kind of dialogue with an Arab-Palestinian delegation, to go on from there to the stage of elections. Let me just remind you of another very important thing: Last year the United States maintained a dialogue with the PLO. What I mean by that is that the entire background of what has evolved since is completely different. Today we are back to Israel's firm positions as they appear in the Camp David accords.

[Einstein] If Israel is demanding that the Palestinians be a part of a Jordanian delegation, why would we mind if a Palestinian delegate were to get up and say that he is coordinating with the PLO in Tunis?

[Ben-Aharon] Because, as I said many times in the past, if we must talk to the *carbon copy*, we prefer to go to the source; we might as well talk to the PLO. This is unthinkable. The PLO is absolutely out of the question. We will not talk to the PLO—directly or indirectly—and this appears in the Israeli Government's peace initiative.

[Einstein] Are we not being naive here? What if no such declaration is made but coordination goes on behind the scenes? Would we still get up and quit the negotiations?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that anyone in his right mind understands that the Israeli Government will not kid itself. If the PLO is conducting the negotiations by *remote control*, this dialogue will lead nowhere.

[Golan] Concerning the settlements: We have heard reports that during Baker's talks here he asked Israel to stop them and criticized Minister Sharon for making declarations and building in the territories. He spoke of the wrong timing, not of our right to settle there. Will the continuation of the settlement drive and the fact that we view this as an internal Israeli matter not cause difficulties, perhaps even torpedo the whole process?

[Ben-Aharon] I would put it this way: We know that the U.S. Administration is not pleased with the Israeli settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. This has been discussed with the U.S. Administration so often that I believe the conclusion is that we have agreed to

disagree on this issue. Israel will continue its settlement drive, and the United States will continue expressing its reservations.

[Golan] How would you sum up the two-day talks with Baker? Have we made any progress toward peace with the Arab countries and a dialogue, perhaps even an arrangement, with the Palestinians?

[Ben-Aharon] I would not use the term progress; I would say this: Today the secretary of state and his aides have a very good understanding of Israel's stands, down to the finest detail, in a manner that will enable him to examine carefully whether there is a possibility of formulating an agenda or plan that will allow negotiations to start, through the regional conference, to be followed by direct negotiations between us and all of the Arab elements.

[Einstein] Mr. Ben-Aharon, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

Meridor on Interpretation of Resolution 242

FA1004163491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1506 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Tzvi Lidar in the "Six After Six" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Lidar] The United States has promised that we will talk with a Palestinian delegation from the territories. According to their point of view, the territories also include East Jerusalem and deportees are part of the population of the territories. Have we received any assurances on this matter?

[Meridor] You rightly said at the beginning of this interview that I would not tell everything I know. I think we should not spoil the ongoing process. What I can say is that the Americans know our position about Jerusalem. They also know that the process got stuck a year ago precisely over the questions of Jerusalem and the PLO. This is clear to them. Our position is clear. I think, and I believe the Americans also think, that we have reached some understandings which will enable action in the future, if the Arabs agree to make progress based on these understandings. That is why I do not want to address myself specifically to the question of who will represent the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. I know that for us Jerusalem is part of Israel and is in no way related to the question of autonomy or the interim arrangement. I think we can make progress based on these understandings if the other side accepts them.

[Lidar] I would like to raise another point of controversy between us and the Americans, which is the interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. Do you subscribe to the view of those who believe that we fulfilled the principle of territory for peace when we gave the Sinai back to Egypt?

[Meridor] Resolution 242 has numerous interpretations. The Americans and the Arabs have their interpretation, and we have ours. I think that Resolution 242 is one of the foundations of the Camp David accords. It is mentioned there, we accepted it in that context, and we have said as much on more than one occasion. I think that Resolution 242 legitimately renders itself to various interpretations. It was formulated in such a way so as to enable each side to have its own interpretation for a reason.

I would like to draw attention to the eastern sector, which relates to Jordan. Resolution 242 speaks about the occupation of territories, the return or handover of territories, and the withdrawal from territories. The premise behind it is that there are two sovereign countries, that one country took territory away from the other, and must return it to its sovereign ruler. We should not forget that the Jordanian kingdom has forgone all claims to sovereignty over Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. It has explicitly said that it has no claims to sovereignty there. It is not that it agrees with our sovereignty; it has all sorts of Palestinian ideas. However, seeing that the former ruler and occupier of Judaea and Samaria from 1948 to 1967 in fact no longer claims sovereignty over those areas, I am not sure that the interpretation of Resolution 242 that speaks of the return or handover of territories can simply and clearly be applied to this area. The man who ruled it before has no claims to it.

[Lidar] And what about the Golan Heights?

[Meridor] As is known, Israeli law was applied to the Golan Heights in 1980. We did not conquer the Golan Heights on a whim. It was a place from which Israel's security had been actively threatened. If you watched the television program about the late chief of staff David El'azar two weeks ago, you saw Israeli settlements down in the valley being shelled from the Golan Heights and children being raised in air raid shelters. Syria threatened us for 19 years until 1967, joined the war believing that Israel was going to be occupied and perhaps even annihilated, and wanted to take part in it. We responded by attacking back and occupying part of that area in a just defensive war. Our presence on the Golan Heights and the application of our law are just. We have no intention of changing our position. This does not mean that we are not willing to enter or do not want negotiations with Syria.

[Lidar] About what?

[Meridor] Negotiations about peace. All the issues are open to negotiation, with the purpose being peace. We will voice a very clear position in the negotiations, and the Syrians will voice theirs. We are prepared and want to conduct negotiations, but our position on the Golan Heights is clear and was anchored in law in 1980.

[Lidar] To sum up your answer, do you really think that the return of territories mentioned in Resolution 242 has been fulfilled? Are you saying that we have handed over the Sinai, and there is actually nothing more to return, neither Judaea nor Samaria nor the Golan Heights?

[Meridor] Nobody in the world, certainly not the Americans nor the Arabs, has the slightest doubt about my or Israel's position concerning Resolution 242 and Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. We regard Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza as part of Eretz Yisra'el. We are not foreign occupiers in those areas. There is controversy over the sovereignty in those areas because the Arabs also claim them as theirs. We are prepared to enter negotiations. We do not think that a territorial arrangement is the best. We believe there is no contradiction between our point of view and Resolution 242.

I do not want to dwell on the differences. We want to launch negotiations, and when they begin each side will state its position. I think that as far as Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are concerned we have found a way—which is acceptable to the Americans and the Egyptians, and I hope also to others—not to discuss the borders, sovereignty, and the final status of the territories now, but to talk about an interim arrangement, such as autonomy, self-rule, or any other term that is floated from time to time. The substance behind these terms is very important; they are not whimsical. Al-Sadat, Begin, and all who supported the Camp David accords understood that the main idea that led to peace was not to dwell on the difficult and emotional questions that affect the very roots and existence of the peoples in this region; that these are better left to a later stage; and that practical matters should be discussed without each asking the other to give up his ideologies.

We would have our demands and rights, and they would have theirs. We should not rule out our mutual demands if we want to reach a practical arrangement. They would manage their own affairs through some form of autonomy whose parameters could be discussed. At a later stage, after self-rule has been in effect for a number of years, we would discuss the final status. I think this is the most realistic and only feasible proposal. I am glad that the United States is again embracing this idea, which actually was the basis of the Camp David accords. Egypt is committed to it through its signature on the accords. If other Arabs, such as the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, realize that this is the way to make progress, I think a breakthrough will occur. "If" is the key word here; I am not yet sure that the progress in the Arab world that the Americans have been hinting at really exists. [passage omitted]

Minister Criticizes U.S. on Kurds, Palestinians

TA0904124091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Apr 91 p B1

[Commentary by Health Minister Ehud Olmert: "The Right To Determine"]

[Text] Of all the national groups fighting for self-determination in the 20th century, the Kurds may have the longest history. In this century alone, the Kurds have waged six armed struggles to obtain, at the minimum, limited autonomy on the road to national self-determination.

The Kurdish people meet all the criteria to qualify as a nation. They occupy a rather broad territorially contiguous strip of land in the area that separates Iraq from Iran. The Kurds have their own language and distinctive cultural traditions. They have for generations sustained the tradition of national awareness and have engaged in a courageous and bitter struggle to implement their right to self-determination.

By all acceptable standards prevailing in international relations, the whole world should have united in support of the Kurds' aspiration for independence. In effect, however, an ongoing process of a systematic and brutal genocide is taking place, with the Iraqis butchering the Kurds even as the whole world watches in apathy and indifference.

The Kurds' current experience in fighting for their right to self-determination, or national autonomy at the least, follows the rather routine pattern of the desire to exploit Iraq's present vulnerability due to its involvement in the violent struggle with another country, coupled with the expectation of broad international support thanks to the special circumstances that emerged in the wake of the Gulf war. The proximity of the powerful U.S. Armed Forces, which could have virtually stultified Iraq's military reaction, gave rise to the hope that the Kurds could realize their aspirations.

In actual fact, however, the U.S. Administration has departed from its announcement that it would prohibit Iraqi deployment of aircraft to quash the Kurdish rebellion. The Americans have turned a blind eye to the brutal suppression of this revolt by what used to be the Iraqi Army. The U.S. Administration made cynical and shameless use of the pretext of not intervening in sovereign countries' internal affairs, a category within which the Kurdish revolt conveniently falls.

When such a declaration comes from a country that deploys 500,000 troops in the theater of war, one whose leaders do not hesitate to frequently invoke, in various global contexts, arguments of moral commitment to such principles as self-determination, equality, and freedom, although a methodical brutal genocide is happening within arm's reach of the victorious U.S. forces, which are nevertheless not lifting a finger to stop it—the sole, unavoidable conclusion is that U.S. sensitivity is selective. In addition to being governed by more than moral causes, this sensitivity reeks heavily of oil considerations, which led that government to salvage such corrupt regimes as Amir al-Sabah's in Kuwait and Fahd's in Saudi Arabia, while allowing the massacre of tens of thousands of human beings because they can offer the U.S. economic interests absolutely nothing.

Yet I would not presume to pass judgment on the U.S. Administration's moral standards, particularly as I am not surprised by their latest manifestations. I only want

to understand the rules of the global game as dictated by the powers that run it. The inevitable conclusion, from our standpoint, is that the self-righteous audacity in the attempt to isolate the conflict in which we are embroiled—the struggle for the right to self-determination and another nation's right to national liberation and freedom—does not measure up to the standards accepted in today's international scene.

No comparison between the Kurds' and the Palestinians' struggles would be valid. The circumstances as well as the historical background and the geopolitical context in both cases are completely different. Consequently, there is no room for the automatic conclusion that the recommended outcome of the Kurdish problem would also be applicable to the Palestinians. In stressing this, however, I do not mean to argue that we should be allowed to do what the Iraqis have been permitted to do. The Palestinians are not the Kurds, and we are far from anything like the Iraqis.

The inference we may, or actually must, make is that we have every right to define the terms for the solution of the problem in which we are involved in accordance with the conditions relevant to our needs and our special circumstances. We have no reason or need to cower before the moral yoke deduced from the description of the Palestinian struggle as the struggle to free one nation from the oppression and occupation of another.

From now on let us say to the Western elements that will taunt us with this distorted equation, in firmer terms than ever before, that those who lent their hand to the slaughter of the Kurdish people have forfeited the right to preach to others. Now and in the future, whenever we hear Arab countries murmuring about self-determination and national liberation, we should remind them that none of them raised their voice or showed even passive sympathy for the Kurds' right to self-determination.

If indeed, as we have seen these days, the right to self-determination is subjugated to external considerations, and if those considerations are found to be legitimate, as we have also seen, then it will be both Israel's right and duty to define what it deems the proper parameters on which to base a future settlement with the Palestinians. These should include rejection of the possibility of an independent Palestinian state. Israel's considerations must be based first and foremost on our security requirements and their attendant territorial concepts.

As for those who come to talk to us about self-determination, we will send them to the Kurds.

Peres on Talks, Palestinian Participation

TA1104071291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Telephone interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres in the Netherlands, by anchor Me'ir Einstein and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Are you going to meet the U.S. secretary of state in Geneva tomorrow?

[Peres] This is possible.

[Einstein] It has not been finalized yet?

[Peres] No.

[Einstein] Did you ask for this meeting?

[Peres] What difference does it make?

[Golan] It is interesting because you are the chairman of the leading opposition party.

[Peres] We are in constant contact. What difference does it make where we meet?

[Golan] Will you suggest ideas to him on how to promote the negotiations? You must have your own ideas on this.

[Peres] Certainly.

[Golan] What for example?

[Peres] I keep thinking that we need negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation because I believe that this framework is the only possible solution. I believe that separate negotiations with the Palestinians will essentially lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state; there is no way to avoid it.

[Einstein] This means that you accept Mr. Shamir's position as it was presented to Secretary Baker?

[Peres] I do not know what he told Baker.

[Golan] The stand presented was that Israel does not want to talk to a Palestinian delegation as a separate entity, but it would want to see representatives of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip incorporated in a Jordanian delegation. Are you saying that it sounds familiar?

[Peres] Yes. This is what I said a long time ago. There is one difference: I am not rejecting a separate Palestinian delegation. What I am saying is that I prefer a joint delegation, because it is up to the Jordanians and Palestinians to meet and reach agreement. In general, I believe this is the way not to miss the opportunity for peace, and I still see no agreement on the composition of the Palestinian delegation or on the agenda. Also, I see there are difficulties linked to the issue of settlements. This means that the road is still long, and quite blocked. I am not surprised by the government's agreement to hold a regional conference, because the only thing different is the name. After all, what is the difference between an international and a regional conference if they are both attended by the USSR and the United States, which are not part of the region?

[Golan] Baker, however, promised that the participation of the two superpowers, or rather one and one-half superpower—the United States and the USSR—will only be symbolic.

[Peres] It was always like that. The conference was never said to be one that would force a solution. Their participation was always meant to provide an opening. There is no novelty in that. The only new thing is the name, changed to to make it sound more proper. I do not regret that, I am even happy about it.

[Golan] Do you believe that there is a chance that these direct negotiations—which would open under what you called an umbrella, an opening ceremony of a regional meeting—would turn into serious negotiations with the Arab countries and the Palestinians, now that you know the stands of both sides?

[Peres] Look, I will not hide it from you. I see a difficulty in simultaneous negotiations with the Arab countries and the Palestinians and the Jordanians, because I have no doubt that all the Arab countries, if they come, will assume the most extreme Palestinian stand. No other issue will be raised before they raise the Palestinian matter. So, what good have we done? The right thing to do is negotiate the Palestinian issue with the Jordanians and the Palestinians. Imagine a conference attended by the Syrians, the Saudis, the Kuwaitis, where the first issue raised is withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria, the solution of the Palestinian problem. Why should we invite so many supporters of the Palestinian cause? It would have been a lot more logical to negotiate the Palestinian issue with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, and later, or in parallel, talk to the Arab countries. By inviting all of them we are uniting them around the issue that has anyway always united the Arab world.

Let us not forget that the Arab world has almost no single issue around which it would rally, except for the Palestinian issue. By doing that we are supplying the Arab world with a common denominator. This will not make things easier for us. Also, I believe that time will pass. If we only want time to pass, that is different. Then, we should remember that we will not return to the point where we are now. With time, the arms race will start again. The race may be old, but the arms will be new. They will return to the issue of coalitions, and we will not know who else will want to attend, as there are other candidates. We are bringing upon ourselves an unnecessary danger.

[Golan] Mr. Peres, in preparation for the negotiations, would you freeze the settlement drive as an Israeli gesture?

[Peres] I would abstain from settlements and not call it a gesture. I believe that today there is no need to settle Jews in areas densely populated by Arabs—setting up new settlements or expanding existing ones—there is simply no need for that. Also, we need a lot of money for aliyah. We have several problems to face today. We cannot be busy with making an impression all the time. Over 200,000 immigrants have arrived from the USSR so far; we see the situation of employment; we need billions to absorb them. With our own hands we are creating obstacles on raising the funds we need. With the whole Negev almost empty, what is the point of doing the things that seem the most difficult at this time?

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, if this process leads to a government crisis, will you try to set up a government, or would you prefer new elections?

[Peres] I believe that we need to set up a government headed by peace. I believe the problem is not the composition of the government, but the policy stemming from its composition. It was clear from day one that a government with such extreme elements in it would not be able to make progress, and it is clear today as well. Mr. Shamir cannot provide answers that are unacceptable to his coalition partners. We all know the position of the partners, Tehiya, Moledet, Tzomet.

[Golan] But the majority of the government ministers support Shamir's stands and moves.

[Peres] The problem is not the majority in the cabinet, but the structure of the coalition.

[Einstein] Meaning that, in contradiction with Yitzhaq Rabin's stand, you will try to set up a government that you will lead?

[Peres] I did not say that. I still do not see the government falling. There is no need to rush. What I am saying is that what has guided us in our actions in the past, and will continue to guide us in the future, is the renewal of the peace process. We quit the government not because we did not like it, but because it stopped the peace process. We need a government that would allow the peace process to continue. If anyone believes that this government will do that, please, let them go ahead; there is no need to set up another. I, however, see the difficulties this government is creating for itself, and I do not share the optimism, because I see the obstacles still ahead. I also believe that a part of the policy that is being made contradicts not only the logic of negotiations, but also the logic of the coalition's existence. I also hear that the more extreme parties are saying: OK, as long as you are just talking, fine; but if you get practical, you will not have a government. A decision must be made on what is the central and most important issue, which is the political process. All the rest is speculations and variations, and so on.

[Einstein] Knesset Member Shim'on Peres in the Netherlands, thank you.

[Peres] Thank you.

Commentaries View Results of Baker Visit

Urged To Seek Interim Solution

TA100414029l Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Apr 91 p 11b

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Negotiations Are Not Everything"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who came to Israel twice within a period of a few weeks searching for success where all his predecessors had failed, apparently has more pretensions than they had. These, however, are very unlikely to land him any greater achievements, seeing that his problem is exactly the same problem they had.

The problem is that Baker, too, is centering his efforts on the negotiating process and the forum of the negotiations, whereas what will ultimately determine his success or failure must be done away from the negotiating table so that the moment the sides convene—the form makes no difference—there will be a basic understanding.

The one and only successful attempt that led to a written and signed peace treaty—with Egypt—succeeded not because Camp David was a magical venue and method, but because at Camp David they only negotiated the details. The essence and the principles had been decided elsewhere, away from the negotiating table.

The moment Egypt agreed with Israel on the principles—namely, that it would sign a separate and independent peace treaty with Israel which would actually not be linked to the notion of autonomy for the Palestinians—one could have asserted with certainty that the Camp David summit would culminate in success.

Baker's previous round of talks—which was an attempt to draw Israel and the Palestinians to the negotiating table with the help of tricks such as including "deportees" and a representative of East Jerusalem holding residence elsewhere—failed because it was not conducted honestly. The main thing, so it was said, is "to get the negotiations going."

The main thing is to speak the truth and to know in advance the basic points of agreement, without which any negotiations are doomed to fail even before they get started.

Baker will find success only if he manages to persuade his Arab interlocutors that they should not expect an independent Palestinian state and a comprehensive agreement at once, but should come to terms with the fact that the most and the best that can be attained today is an interim agreement in a process which is bound to last years, until a permanent peace arrangement is reached. This must be the gist of "the new order."

Yitzhaq Rabin's latest utterances should persuade the U.S. secretary of state that if a moderate man like Rabin, who is backed by the majority of his party on this issue, argues with deep conviction that the Golan Heights and parts of Judaea and Samaria are preferable to peace, then the problem is not with Ari'el Sharon, Ge'ula Kohen, or Rehav'am Ze'evi. That is why it is senseless to go hopping from one country to another in search of a formula for an effective negotiating method. Negotiations are not everything.

Baker Seen Getting 'Fed Up'

TA1104111191 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 Apr 91 p 2

[Editorial by Gay Bekhor: "Israel Is Waiting for the Arabs To Hem and Haw"]

[Text] The satisfaction in Israel over the agreement with the United States on a regional conference does not stem from the assessment that a political breakthrough has indeed been achieved. Jerusalem knows very well that the idea conflicts with the Arabs' traditional stand: They prefer to support an international conference. The delight is over the success scored in persuading Baker to support the Israeli position.

This, the government hopes, will put the Arabs in a bind: If they reject the regional conference, they will be regarded as rejecting peace. If they accept it, then either the cabinet will break up or a regional conference will indeed take place. The latter will ultimately blow up—but not before Israel attains a measure of recognition from the Arab world. Thus, for the first time in many years, Israel yesterday managed to toss the ball into the Arab court, and Jerusalem is now cheerfully awaiting the expected hemming and hawing.

Naturally, the Arabs do not want to play into Israel's hands and be portrayed as the side that torpedoed Baker's latest initiative. The PLO, that great loser, has rushed to reject the notion, but Egypt and Syria are very cautious. They will not turn down the idea of the conference, but rather will quickly throw the ball back into the Israeli court by presenting conditions that will be unacceptable to Israel: the withdrawal of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the territories, the problematic Palestinian representation, and Palestinian sovereignty.

Even in his worst nightmares, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad cannot see himself shaking hands with Shamir. Neither can the Saudis and the Kuwaitis, who have been pushed into an embarrassing situation, picture this. The result will be that all the sides will simply make Baker's life so miserable by presenting their conditions and by coming up with their formulas and cliches that he will simply get fed up. And he will not be the first. This has already happened to a host of U.S. statesmen who tried, but were ultimately forced to give up.

Palestinians Link Peace With End to Settlements

TA1004201891 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There are two valuable points in the ongoing haggling. The first: A hitherto unannounced change in the Syrian stance on the issue of Palestinian representation. We have learned that President al-Asad tends to agree to having the Palestinians represented by a delegation from the territories, at least in the first stage of the peace process. [passage omitted]

The second novelty lies in the details we learned tonight. In the meeting with Secretary of State Baker in Jerusalem yesterday, the Palestinian delegation proposed the following move: Israel will stop its settlement activities in the territories, and in turn, in an almost natural manner—in the words of the Palestinian activists—the intifadah-related acts of violence will cease. Following that, Israel, for its part, will be able to cut back on the harsh countermeasures vis-a-vis the population. Thus—Baker was told yesterday—a climate favorable for autonomy talks will be created. As the Palestinians told Baker, such a chain of steps will be able to serve as a genuine backdrop for the building of confidence leading to negotiations.

Baker told his interlocutors that he can exert political and diplomatic pressure on Israel, but not economic pressure, as they demanded. They suggested, for instance, an immediate cut in aid to Israel. When the Palestinians reminded him of the pressure to withdraw from the Sinai exerted on Ben-Gurion in 1957, Baker reacted—per the Palestinian account—with hearty laughter.

In essence, Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and their associates suggested a simple deal: a series of gestures and countergestures beginning with a halt of the expansion of settlements and ending with abated intifadah violence. Baker, however, settled for stressing that the Palestinians in the territories should try harder to improve their position by joining in talks without the PLO and without Jerusalemites.

The Palestinians summed up the meeting by saying that even if they express readiness to move toward autonomy as the first phase, Baker did not promise them that while the process continues, Israel will not void the autonomy plan of its content. [passage omitted]

East Jerusalem Press on Arabs' Talks With Baker

Baker Seen Offering 'Self-Government'

LD1004135091 Jerusalem IDF HR in Arabic 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 7

[Report by Khalid Abu-'Akr]

[Excerpt] During his meeting yesterday with six Palestinian figures, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker put forward the concept of convening a regional conference in the Middle East to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During the meeting, held at the U.S. Consulate, Baker presented three ideas about the nature of participation in this regional conference, which is to include Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and Palestinians from the occupied territories. The conference will be held under U.S.-Soviet auspices. The U.S. Administration envisions that Arab participation in this conference will be through independent delegations of the participating countries or through a unified Arab delegation. Palestinian participation will be within the framework of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Baker said that the U.S. Administration believes that the regional conference is the mechanism through which one can work at this stage for a peaceful solution to the conflict in the region.

The U.S. secretary of state presented to the six personalities the likely U.S. scenario for solving the Palestinian problem within the framework of the regional conference, despite the fact that the U.S. Administration does not have a clear picture yet of the conference's nature, as the secretary said. He pointed out that at the regional conference, the Palestinians will hold negotiations on the establishment of self-government [previous word in English] for a period of three years. After that period, negotiations will be held between that administration and Israel on implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Palestinian figures said that the self-government that the U.S. Administration is proposing is more developed than autonomy but less than an independent state. The Palestinian figures asked Baker and his advisers to present written clarifications about the concept of self-government so that they could study and hold consultations on the idea. [passage omitted]

'Disappointment' With Baker

LD1004142291 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Apr 91 p 12

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Excerpts] Six Palestinians from the territories met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for over two hours yesterday. At the end of the meeting, however, most of them were unable to conceal their disappointment at the results of the meeting. "We have achieved nothing," some of the delegates admitted, after the delegation's hope that Baker would bring new messages remained unfulfilled. After the meeting, the participants' impressions were conveyed to the PLO headquarters in Tunis. [passage omitted]

The results place Faysal al-Husayni and Fatah supporters, who had requested the meeting with Baker, in an embarrassing position. Those who had been against holding the meeting were not only the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], but also figures associated with Fatah, including some who had favored the first encounter with Baker. Last night, the meeting's opponents termed its outcome "a slap in the Palestinians' face."

It emerged that the Palestinian notables received no promise to achieve progress or significant alleviation of living conditions in the territories that could be flaunted

to the residents. After three years of intifadah, the population is no longer ready to give up the achievements of the uprising and to return to square one. "It was plain even in the previous meeting that the Americans have nothing for the Palestinians, and that all they can do is use the notables as a fig leaf," the meeting's opponents said yesterday.

East Jerusalem sources stated yesterday that the only achievement of the encounter lies in the fact that it was proven that the Americans are pursuing indirect contacts with the PLO (al-Husayni is a member of the Palestinian National Council.) "But all the other points prove that Hawatimah and Habash were right in that the Palestinians have made no direct achievement," they added. An East Jerusalem journalist said: "We have learned that in these parts, politics can move nothing. Perhaps only another crisis will make a change."

Yesterday morning, a few hours before the delegation met with Baker, the PFLP and DFLP issued in East Jerusalem a joint manifesto against the meeting. "As the Baker visit takes place, the U.S. State Department persists in its support for the continued 25-year Israeli occupation of our Palestinian land," the manifesto stated. "At the same time, the Americans foil every resolution and initiative denouncing the deeds of the Israeli occupation authorities, the most recent of which is the decision to expel four of our compatriots from their land.

"The U.S. secretary of state's visit reflects the United States' continued dillydallying, which began during the Gulf war and which aims to bring the region to a situation beneficial to the United States and its local allies. All this means a return to a separate-solution policy under U.S. auspices and without an international conference, which our nation regards as the framework for the solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Right-Wingers Threaten To Topple Coalition

TA1004113291 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 10 Apr 91 p A2

[Report by Menahem Rahat and Tzvi Lavi]

[Excerpts] Agitation, tension, and a sense of disbelief, even culminating in threats to resign from the coalition, were expressed yesterday by politicians to the right of the Likud. There, they fear that a new peace plan incorporating Israeli concessions is being concocted between Secretary of State Baker and Prime Minister Shamir.

Even within the Likud itself, various Knesset members [MK's] and Construction and Housing Minister Sharon voiced concern over new and far-reaching commitments given by Shamir to Baker. A number of Likud MK's complained that the prime minister was concealing his actions, not supplying any information, and hiding things even from his colleagues. "We are being kept in the dark," they claimed.

Minister Sharon, who is also the chairman of the Likud Central Committee, yesterday declared that he intends to demand permission from the prime minister to convene the Central Committee immediately. "The Likud's moment of truth has come and we are now struggling for the very future of the country," he asserted. Shamir has so far shown no inclination to accede to Sharon's demand. Commenting on Israel's agreement to a regional conference, Sharon said: "A regional conference could endanger Israel, if it is not made clear during such a meeting that the only realistic solution is to recognize the fact that a Palestinian state already exists and that is Jordan, and there will be no second state. Therefore, we should discuss a series of steps with Jordan."

In the three parties to the right of the Likud—Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet—there was tough and forceful talk of resigning from the coalition if and when it transpires that Israel is departing from its positions as anchored in the Israeli Government's basic guidelines. One right-wing minister said: "The resignation of our seven MK's from the 66-member coalition means the downfall of the government and immediate elections, without even mentioning the expectation that parts of the NRP [National Religious Party] and some Likud MK's will join us." [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan said last night that any attempt to stop settlement in the territories, or alternatively any attempt to extort concessions from Israel under the slogan of territories for peace, would lead to Tzomet's resignation from the coalition. "This would constitute a casus belli as far as we are concerned, and would lead us straight out. We will not accept any territorial concessions in return for a bogus peace or any pressures to stop the settlement process, which is the lifeblood of Zionism."

MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni yesterday threatened that the Tehiya faction would withdraw from the goverment and could bring about its downfall, if there is any change in the settlement process in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and if Foreign Minister David Levi's formula, which accepts the establishment of a Palestinian delegation, should conceal the PLO's label during the peace talks.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, from the Moledet faction, said that his party has three red lines, any breach of which would lead to their faction's resignation: territorial concessions; agreement to autonomy, which Ze'evi believes would lead to a Palestinian state; or a lack of government will to quell the intifadah.

Sharon Demands Likud Central Committee Meeting

TA1004195391 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpts] The struggle in the Likud is deepening. Minister Ari'el Sharon, chairman of the Likud Central Committee [CC], today approached the prime minister in

writing, demanding that Shamir convene the CC at once for a debate on the political moves.

Sharon harshly attacked the cabinet, saying that it has held no debate on the political plan, and that Israel has no comprehensive political plan.

In the upcoming weeks, Sharon will convene mass meetings with CC members because, in his words, the Likud's moment of truth has arrived. He intends to wage a struggle from within the party against the political moves. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports:

[passage omitted] The rules of the political game are now clear. A CC convention will provide Sharon with a stage, and there are some at the top of the party who do not wish that to happen. The possibility of an explosion at the CC convention will create pandemonium in the Likud and halt the political processes. It further draws the war of the heirs nearer, and perhaps even drags the entire system into general elections.

Sharon, however, persists. This time, he again takes risks and bets the whole kitty. [passage omitted]

High Court, Minister Endorse Prisoner Release

TA1004174891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Two hundred forty Palestinian security prisoners were released today, the first of more than 1,000 to be released to mark next week's Muslim fast of 'Id al-Fitr. The move came as the High Court of Justice in Jerusalem rejected two separate petitions against the release. Mark Weiss reports:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] [passage omitted] The High Court of Justice today rejected separate petitions against the release presented by Likud Knesset Member Tzahi Hanegbi and No'am Federman of Kakh. President of the Supreme Court, Me'ir Shamgar, ruled that the decision to free the prisoners had been taken by the relevant bodies and did not entail a security risk.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor rejected the parallels drawn between this release and the Ahmad Jibril prisoner exchange:

[Meridor] This was nothing comparable to the Jibril transaction—a very sad and bad transaction some years ago. Then, murderers, people with blood on their hands, were released. This time—I understand from the defense establishment—we speak of people who have served more than two-thirds of the time, anyway; who would be released in a short while, anyway; people who have no blood on their hands. This is something we are doing every year. The number was decided by the defense establishment. I think they had every reason to do what they did, and I don't have any doubt that they considered only the calculations that should be taken into account. I have no problem with it. [end recording]

Police Inspector General Ya'aqov Terner says most of the Palestinian security prisoners to be released will not be able to enter the State of Israel because of new restrictions. He said the police would handle each case individually before coming to a decision.

300 Albanian Jews Airlifted in 'Secret Operation'

TA1004174291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The last 11 Jews in Albania are expected to arrive in Israel tomorrow, effectively bringing the existence of the Albanian Jewish community to an end.

About 300 Albanian Jews have been airlifted in a secret operation organized by the Jewish Agency and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Some 30 of them decided to join their families in the United States. Reporter Avraham Ben-Melekh says the Albanians flew to Israel via two European countries and left their home country virtually without any personal belongings.

70 Bulgarian Immigrants Arrive on Direct Flight

TA1004174491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Some 70 new immigrants from Bulgaria arrived on a direct flight from Sofia on board the Bulgarian national carrier this afternoon. Uri Gordon, director of the Jewish Agency's Aliyah and Absorption Department, welcomed them at the airport and said that the direct flight was made possible thanks to the flight agreement signed this month between the two countries. Sofia will likewise serve as a transit point for Soviet immigrants.

Several thousand Jews still remain in Bulgaria. It is hoped that most of them will immigrate to Israel by year's end.

Civil Administration Forecasts West Bank Trends

TA1004105691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Apr 91 p 11

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] An internal document drafted by the West Bank Civil Administration forecasting the processes that are expected to take place in the area in the next 15 years states that the current Palestinian population of the West Bank has already exceeded 1 million.

The population census held after the Six-Day War has not been updated. Central Bureau of Statistics estimates say that in 1989 there were only 903,600 local residents in the West Bank. Civil Administration records, however, indicate that they number 1.328 million. From this figure one must subtract the 163,000 overseas residents, as well as deceased adults and infants, whose numbers have not been updated.

According to predictions, the West Bank population will reach 1.677 million in 14 years.

The survey was conducted by a host of professionals hired by the Civil Administration to forecast developments in the region by the year 2005. The team determined that the Palestinian community is becoming better educated and more ideologically motivated. On the other hand, it will in the future become more dependent on external forces and the neighboring countries. The processes of establishing national, religious, and political institutions will continue and radicalization will maintain its upward swing, the report's authors predict.

The survey also finds that per capita investment in Israel is 3.5 times higher than in the West Bank and that there is currently absolute economic dependence on Israel. The low construction statistics indicate that there is no development toward an independent economic infrastructure. The Palestinians in the West Bank are already farming the maximum arable land, and these areas cannot grow anymore.

The team of experts deliberately avoided tackling issues pertaining to the Jewish settlement of the West Bank. Thus, for example, regarding the water issue, they wrote that the quantities of water pumped for the Palestinians in the West Bank have remained unchanged since 1969, standing at 205 million cubic meters. Only the minuscule quantity of 5.3 million cubic meters of potable water is supplied by Israel.

As far as is known, per capita consumption of water in the settlements is ten times greater, but the report avoided discussing these figures.

Ministry Funds 'Unprecedented' Boom on Golan

TA1104101191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Apr 91 p 1

[Report from the north by Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] Yehuda Wollman, head of the Golan Heights Regional Council, claims that the Golan Heights is undergoing an unprecedented public and private building boom. He says, however, that it has nothing to do with the political reality or talk about possible negotiations on the future of the Golan.

It turns out that in addition to Qatzrin, where approximately 500 housing units are currently being built for new immigrants and residents from the center of the country, and where a similar number of apartments are planned for the near future, the Construction and Housing Ministry is currently financing the building of housing units and public buildings in all Golan Heights settlements.

Some 180 housing units for new immigrants and new settlers are currently under construction in the religious center of Hispin, on the southern slopes of the Golan Heights; 150 are being built in the Bnei Yehuda regional center; and gyms and a school are being built in Kibbutz Merom Golan and in Hispin.

The head of the Regional Council also disclosed that Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon has asked that funds be allocated for the construction of an additional 1,500 housing units, but that the residents of the Golan Heights asked that he suspend building starts a little so that they can make the necessary preparations in the settlements and in the region. Wollman praised Minister Sharon, saying that the building boom has been felt primarily in the postwar period. "There has never been such a momentum of residential and public building on the Golan."

Strike Marks Intifadah Anniversary, Baker Visit

TA1004155791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Apr 91 p 13

[Report by Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, and Ruti Heiman]

[Excerpt] A general strike marking 41 months of the intifadah was observed yesterday in the territories. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] linked the strike also to the visit of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. In connection with the visit, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] yesterday imposed a curfew on Nabulus and Janin and on eight refugee camps in the northern West Bank.

Despite the curfew, masked individuals yesterday disseminated leaflets in west Janin neighborhoods signed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], objecting to the Palestinian notables' encounter with Baker.

The leaflet defined the notables as "weaklings." The PFLP adamantly opposes compromising on the Palestinians' three principles: self-determination, the right of return, and an independent state.

Palestinian sources reported that on Monday night, soldiers raided the Nabulus casbah and made searches and arrests.

Yesterday, a group of masked men stopped an Egged bus driving Arab workers back from jobs in Israel to the village of Ya'bad in northern Samaria. Having ordered the passengers off the bus, the masked men set the vehicle on fire. IDF troops arrived at the site, clamped a curfew on Ya'bad, and combed the area.

In the Gaza Strip yesterday, refugee camp inhabitants and Gaza residents clashed with IDF troops. Palestinian sources reported three wounded.

According to local residents, the Gaza Strip welcomed the release of 1,000 Palestinian detainees and prisoners on the eve of 'Id al-Fitr, carried out upon the decision of

Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The move will include mainly prisoners about to complete their terms and administrative detainees.

The alertness of Sergeant Mikha'el Levi of Netivot Police during a routine morning search yesterday averted a disaster when the officer found a suspicious parcel containing grenades. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 10 April, in a pool report on page 12, adds: "Gaza District Police investigators yesterday found a 'mobile civil administration,' which granted Gaza Strip residents counterfeit stamps for various documents, on a Gaza resident. Among other items, the man carried the personal rubber stamps of the commanders of the Gaza, Jabalyah, and Dayr al-Balah Districts, and of other senior Army officers."

The report goes on to state that "on Monday night, two Molotov cocktails were hurled at an Israeli car driving along the Qatif Bloc road. The bottles missed the car and caused no damage. The IDF closed off the area and started searches."]

Science Minister on 'Secret' Visit to U.S.

TA1104100591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Apr 91 p C1

[Report by Yehuda Sharoni]

[Text] Prof. Yuval Ne'eman, minister of science and technology, energy and infrastructure, and Uri Wurzberger, his ministry's director general, are leaving on a secret mission to the United States. Avi Farhan, the minister's assistant, will accompany them. Prof. Ne'eman will spend two weeks in the United States, during which he will deal with scientific matters. The director general will return to Israel next week.

According to estimates by the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, the minister and his companions will meet with the heads of a U.S. company that produces nuclear reactors. They will visit the company's plants to get a firsthand impression of the reactor in question.

Israel is interested in obtaining an electricity-producing nuclear reactor to supply the Israeli energy market in the next decade.

In the past several years, several options to purchase a nuclear reactor have been examined, the most practical of which was an offer to buy one from France.

Former Energy Minister Moshe Shahal held contacts on this issue, and two years ago, while attending an energy exhibition in Canada, he asked the Canadians to make inquiries about the possibility of Israel's purchasing a nuclear reactor.

Minister Milo on 'Very Good' Talks in Japan

TA1004053291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Japan's foreign minister is planning to visit Israel in the near future, probably in June. This was disclosed by Police Minister Roni Milo, who is in Japan for talks with high-level officials. Reporter Arye Haskell asked Milo by phone what had been accomplished in the talks:

[Begin recording] [Milo] I think that the basic thing that I can say about that meeting is that the atmosphere was very good and we were discussing concrete issues concerning the bilateral issues between Japan and Israel. The concrete issue that was already decided is to start negotiations between professional teams of the two countries concerning the direct airline relations between Japan and Israel—JAL and El Al. This issue is very important for us for many reasons, including the tourism from Japan that we would like to encourage, and also the general relations between the two countries that are so important for us.

[Haskell] But in these relations there is the nagging questions of Japanese surrender to the Arab boycott. Did this come up in your talks?

[Milo] Of course we discussed it, and the issue of direct airline relations is also directly related to this attitude of Japanese companies to the Arab boycott. We believe that if the government will decide to have normal relations, full normalization, between the two countries, and economic relations which are so important for Israel, then it will also have some kind of influence on the countries that will change their attitude toward Israel concerning the Arab boycott. [end recording]

Levi Supports Canada's Arms Initiative

TA0804141991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Israel supports the Canadian Government's initiative to convoke a meeting of the conventional weapon suppliers to limit the Middle East arms race. Foreign Minister David Levi said this at a meeting with the Canadian ambassador to Israel and a Canadian senator. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the foreign minister emphasized that under no circumstances should an arms race be allowed in our region again.

Committee Opposes IDF in Gas Mask Controversy

TA0904064791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Apr 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] The Knesset state control committee yesterday came down firmly on the side of State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat, backing her criticism of the defense

establishment for failing to provide top-quality gas masks to infants and children under 15.

The committee fully endorsed Ben-Porat's charges in her as-yet-unpublished report, that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Defense Ministry failed to allocate due priority to the development and manufacture of more effective gas masks for youngsters, that such development was carried out later than warranted, and therefore the better gas masks were not available to the under-15 age group during the Gulf war.

But IDF Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Baraq, in his first appearance before a Knesset committee since his appointment this month, dug in his heels and rejected Ben-Porat's strictures, as well as the committee's endorsement of them.

He instructed his staff to tell the waiting parliamentary reporters straight after the meeting that, "The IDF does not accept the state control committee's conclusions as they appear in its summing-up statement. The population was provided with appropriate protection against an attack. In light of the pressures involved in the time and the budgets available, as well as external developments, the IDF acted in a proper manner." [passage omitted]

Correction to Sharon Interview on Settlements

TA1104084591

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Sharon: Settlement 'Ongoing Process,'" published in the 10 April Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, p 27:

Paragraph four, sentence two, should read...witnessed all the horrors of the wars. I am...(providing dropped words).

Same paragraph, sentence four, should read...procurement, disarmament, and reaching a parity between Israel and the Arab countries. What sort of...(rewording).

King Receives Iraq's 'Aziz, Saddam Message

NC1104100091 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Amman, 11 Apr (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at al-Nadwah palace last night. 'Aziz brought the king a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the internal situation in Iraq and on Arab relations. The message stresses that Iraq is moving steadily toward internal security and stability and toward organized reconstruction. At the same time, measures and steps are being taken to build a democratic and multi-party system to achieve the unity of the Iraqi people and safeguard their national and pan-Arab interests. Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the Iraqi Ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

U.S. Excludes Nation From Emergency Gulf Aid

NC1104073491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] REUTER says U.S. President George Bush approved a bill yesterday on emergency aid to the states adversely affected by the Gulf war. According to the bill, Israel will receive $650 million while Turkey will get $200 million. The bill makes no mention of U.S. aid to Jordan. The U.S. Congress decided to stop this aid because of Jordan's stand on the Gulf war. Congress, however, authorized the U.S. President to resume this aid if he thinks it will help the peace efforts in the Middle East.

Baker Tour Still Viewed With 'An Open Mind'

NC1004144091 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Apr 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "We Adhere to the Basic Principles and Hope For Just Peace"]

[Text] While U.S. Secretary of State James Baker proceeds with his diplomatic mission in the Middle East, Jordan continues to declare its commitment to the basic principles which it had earlier defined for itself. Foremost of these principles is the determination to resolve the long existing historical conflict on the basis of international legitimacy and the resolutions of the United Nations and the UN Security Council, including Resolution 242, which embodies the land for peace principle.

From this view and understanding of the elements of the aspired solution to the Middle East crisis, we are following James Baker's current tour with great interest and await the tangible outcome it might produce, especially because the United States' interest in reaching a diplomatic settlement for the crisis in the region is increasing, and it had earlier declared the need to base such a settlement on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the land for peace principle, not to mention recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

Hence, the United States, which appears to be more sincere than ever before, is called upon to overcome the main obstacle on the road to the aspired peace. By this we mean Israel's constant refusal to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, and the need to fully recognize the Palestinian people's right to represent themselves, choose their legitimate representatives, and participate on an equal footing with the other parties in any coordinated international effort to revive peace efforts in the Middle East.

Thus, if Washington was able to stop Israel's policy of playing for time and wasting effort, there would be an opportunity to open a new door for just and comprehensive peace in a region that might now be the only region in the world where regional tension is still escalating, tension which poisons the atmosphere in the Middle East and threatens war and conflict at all times.

Although it is still early to determine how successful Baker's current tour in the region will be, the Israeli positions declared yesterday and those of the Palestinians with whom the U.S. secretary of state met do not instill optimism. The Israelis spoke of a U.S. viewpoint that is close to the known Israeli one, while after the meeting the Palestinians spoke of a new disappointment in Baker's position that still insists on ignoring the PLO and excluding it from any multi-party negotiations, at least at this stage.

Despite all this, we will continue to follow Baker's diplomatic mission with an open mind, and a spirit replete with true desire to see peace reigning over this region. This region has had enough of war, tension, and hatred. It has been exhausted by conflicts, threats and immense military budgets. Its people have been disappointed by the lack of necessary firmness, wisdom and farsightedness in U.S. diplomacy to force all the parties concerned to advance with confidence toward the door of peace.

Economic Talks With Libya Open in Amman 1 Apr

NC0104181191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The first round of economic and commercial talks between Jordan and Libya was held at the Industry and Trade Ministry this morning. Ways of promoting trade and economic ties between the two countries were discussed.

Dr. Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Industry and Trade Ministry and head of the Jordanian side to the meeting, stressed the importance of close trade and economic ties between the two fraternal countries. For his part, Salih al-Shaykhi, executive secretary of the imports authority and head of the Libyan side, expressed hope that practical steps would soon follow to implement what has been agreed upon. He stressed the need for establishing economic links among Libya, Jordan, and all Arab countries, and for employing all Arab resources to achieve Arab economic integration.

PLO Instructed To Cooperate With Lebanese Army

NC1004183491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] A Palestinian spokesman has stated that the PLO has instructed its factions to deal positively in their statements and positions with the Lebanese Government's decision to disband the militias. The spokesman added: The Palestinian forces will move from their areas of deployment to the camps and will facilitate the security tasks of the Lebanese Army, provided that Palestinian weapons remain inside the camps.

PLO Reportedly To Merge Fighters With PLA

NC0804205691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Citing Palestinian sources, AFP reported that PLO leaders are prepared to change the form of their military status in Lebanon. The Palestinian leaders are ready to merge their fighters with the Palestinian Liberation Army [PLA] whose command will operate in coordination with the Lebanese Army.

PLO Contacts on Disbandment of Militias Cited

NC0804181391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Many positions on various issues, primarily the disbandment of militias, are still unclear, as discussions continue between the state and the Palestinians. While the Palestinian position on the disbandment of militias and surrender of weapons has not yet crystallized clearly, contacts and activity on more than one front have intensified. This is accompanied by different information and positions. In this context, REUTER today said that the PLO is under pressure to lay down its arms in Lebanon, which has been for a long time a springboard for fedayeen incursions into Israel. REUTER cited PLO leaders in Lebanon as pledging not to lay down their arms even if they have to fight to death. REUTER said that the main PLO strongholds in Lebanon are located to the south and east of Sidon Port. Lebanese officials fear battles might erupt between the Palestinians and the South Lebanese Army that could result in the PLO not laying down its arms, justifying this by its subjection to attacks.

Furthermore, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today. They discussed the Palestinian situation in Lebanon, especially in the south. AFP cited Palestinian sources as saying that PLO leaders are ready to change the form of their military presence in Lebanon and to integrate their fighters with the Palestine Liberation Army, whose command would work in coordination with the Lebanese Army.

Zayd Wahbah, PLO representative in Lebanon, said that Mr. Muhsin Ibrahim, who is visiting Tunisia, will return to Beirut next Monday, along with a Central [Committee] Palestinian delegation, carrying an invitation to an official Lebanese delegation to meet with the PLO leadership in Tunisia.

Weapons Issue Discussed With PLO Delegation

NC0804191391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has received a delegation of the PLO leadership under Salih Zaydan. Al-Khalil explained to the delegation the government's decision on the state's determination to impose its sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and make the weapons of the Lebanese legitimate authorities the only weapons throughout Lebanese territory. Al-Khalil said there is a positive atmosphere in contacts with the Palestinians.

Radio Reviews Issue of Disarming Palestinians

NC0904090991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The Palestinian presence in Lebanon was the focus of meetings and contacts yesterday in Beirut and Tunis and which centered on resolving the issue of either handing Palestinian weapons over to the [Lebanese] state or keeping them with the Palestinian fighters.

Within this framework, Hizballah Secretary General his Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Political Bureau member Abu-Sa'id al-Khansah received a delegation from the PLO command in Lebanon that included Salih Zaydan, Abu-Khalid al-Shamali, Abu-Fadi, Abu-Jabir, Muhammad Yasin, Abu-al-'Ala', 'Ali Faysal, and Husayn Shatila.

The meeting discussed the political situation in general and the developments and moves in Lebanon and the region. Shaykh al-Tufayli stressed that the Palestinian issue is the responsibility of the Muslim nation, and it is at a very dangerous phase now. He said: Duty requires that endeavors be intensified to protect its true identity by mobilizing and directing resources, remaining committed to the principles of rejecting the Zionist entity's existence and all forms of peaceful settlement with it, and continuing the jihad.

His eminence stressed that the method of settlement, whose futility and uselessness have been proven by experiences, would only impair political and historic rights of the Palestinian people and the Islamic nation. It would also deprive our societies, which are concerned with confronting the Zionist expansion, of the spirit of resistance, which is the important factor. The other factors have receded as a result of international changes and the outcome of the Gulf war, particularly the intensified arrogant U.S. attempts to control the fate of the region and impose hegemony on it.

Shaykh al-Tufayli added: Resistance and its continuity remain a firm choice for us. All honest and sincere

people realize deep down that the resistance means field action and psychological and cultural mobilization and that it will remain the natural option for our nation.

On the question of Palestinian weapons, his eminence stressed that the major problem is the Zionist aggression and that all other issues have resulted from this problem. He said: The question of the Palestinian weapons is complicated and interwoven with several other issues. Therefore, it cannot be tackled through the proposed principles for resolving the Lebanese crisis and must be dealt with together with the interlinking problems and through an agreement on the related political and military efforts; not in the atmosphere of simplicity with which it is being dealt with now.

PLO Reportedly Seeking Dialogue With Syrians

NC0604141091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] On the moves to deal with the non-Lebanese militias, particularly with regard to the Palestinians, the committee entrusted to hold contacts with the Palestinians, which comprises Ministers Muhsin Dallul, Nabih Birri, and Albert Mansur, has begun its consultations.

Minister Dallul has left for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials on this subject. Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Communist Action Organization is participating in these efforts. Tomorrow he will leave for Tunis to meet with a number of PLO officials.

Algeria is also participating in the efforts. Algerian Ambassador Mohamed Lakhdar Belaid answered a question on Algeria's efforts with the Palestinians to hand over their weapons. He said Algeria's efforts have been continuing for the good of Lebanon since the date of its commitment to assist Lebanon within the Arab Tripartite Committee. He noted that this stand is unchangeable. He denied any knowledge of a visit to Tunis by Arab Committee envoy Lakhdar Ibrahimi to hold talks with the Palestinian leadership.

Meanwhile, quoting a leading source in the PLO, AL-NAHAR said the PLO is seeking to open a direct dialogue with the Syrian leadership. The source added that the PLO leadership in Tunis has asked, through the Syrian ambassador in the Tunisian capital, for an appointment for a [words indistinct] delegation to visit Damascus to hold talks with Syrian officials on all issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian presence in Lebanon. The source said the PLO leaders in Lebanon and Tunis feel satisfied and assured regarding the Palestinian presence in Lebanon after the official opening of dialogue between the PLO and the Lebanese legitimate authority.

PNSF Offical Seeks Dialogue With Government

NC0404132391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] Abu-Fadi Hammad, secretary of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF], has announced: We will not obstruct the establishment of governmental authority over all Lebanese territory.

In a statement he made after meeting with Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, Hammad said that contacts are being held with the Lebanese Government to establish a dialogue between the government and the PNSF. He stressed that the Palestinians should enjoy freedom of movement and employment. He said these issues can be discussed in a logical manner because Palestinian affairs are a major and important issue.

Karami, Palestinian Delegation Discuss Relations

NC0904111591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The regulation of Lebanese-Palestinian relations and the removal of Palestinian weapons was discussed today at a meeting between Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and a PLO delegation led by Abu-Jabir and including Abu-al-'Ala', Muhammad Yasin, 'Ali Faysal, Ramzi Rabah, Husayn Shatila, and Abu-Fadi Raji.

Abu-Jabir, who spoke on behalf of the delegation, stressed that the dialogue centered on the means of regulating Lebanese-Palestinian relations on a sound and correct foundation. He noted that this foundation could preserve the Lebanese state's sovereignty over the Lebanese territory and preserve at the same time the political, security, economic, and social rights of our Palestinian people in Lebanon.

Abu-Jabir added: We stressed the PLO's support for the legitimate Lebanese Government's sovereignty, an end to the civil war, and the restoration of accord over Lebanon's Arabism. We also stressed our desire to extend support and backing to the Lebanese state in imposing its legitimate authority over all areas. He stressed that the PLO wanted to establish a relations office between two Arab countries within the framework of the Arab League. He also stressed that it wanted to be a factor of support for national and Islamic forces resisting the Zionist occupation in the south.

The Palestinian official went on to say: We are playing our role in this resistance on the principle that the enemy occupying the south is occupying the land of Palestine. There is a common interest in resisting the enemy. Regarding the withdrawal of Palestinian weapons, Abu-Jabir said: We stress to his excellency Prime Minister Karami that we are ready to discuss all the issues, bases, and rules that should govern relations with the PLO and regulate the Palestinian presence.

SLA, Fundamentalist 'Violent Clashes' Reported

NC1104100291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Violent clashes between the South Lebanese Army and the radical fundamentalist organizations are raging on the Kafr Falus, Lib'a, and 'Ayn al-Mir lines. Medium- and heavy-caliber weapons are being used in these clashes. A number of villages close to these lines have been shot at.

Shiite Leader Says Israel Key for Hostage Release

NC1104110991 Paris AFP in English 1027 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, April 11 (AFP)—The United States, Britain and Germany must pressure Israel to free Arab prisoners, if they wish to secure the release of their own hostages, a Shiite official in south Lebanon said early Thursday.

"The hostages held in Lebanon will be freed de facto if the United States, Britain and Germany intercede with Israel to have it release the Lebanese and Palestinians it is holding in its prisons," said Husayn al-Musawi, head of the Islamic Amal organization.

Mr. al-Musawi, speaking to foreign reporters, added: "It's the Americans who are complicating the settlement of the hostage issue as we don't understand what is preventing them from pressuring Israel for which they give unlimited, political, economic and military support."

Islamic Amal is a pro-Iranian movement that broke away from the Damascus-backed Amal Shiite organization of Lebanon and Mr. al-Musawi is considered well-versed on the hostage dossier.

Mr. al-Musawi's statement was made four days before the Muslim 'Id al-Fitr feast marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, when Israel has been known to free Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners it is holding. The captors of two U.S. hostages in Lebanon said recently they were prepared to release their detainees in exchange for 400 "mujadeheen" (religious freedom fighters) held in Israeli prisons.

Twelve Western hostages, including six Americans, two Britons, two Germans and an Italian, are still held in Lebanon by groups close to pro-Iranian Shiite fundamentalist organizations. Mr. al-Musawi said Iran "can use its influence on the Muslim groups holding the hostages."

"The Iranians are concerned about resolving the hostage issue and this springs from their desire to pursue a policy of opening up to the West," he added.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said Saturday that the hostage issue was at a dead end since Washington had done nothing to respond to the demands of the captors. On Sunday, U.S. President George Bush said Iran's help in freeing the hostages was necessary but made no mention of pressure on Israel.

The different statements were issued in the wake of several indications that intense efforts were being made by the Iranians and Syrians to resolve the hostage affair. Asked about the status of the three Israeli soldiers held by the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia, Mr. al-Musawi replied: "I don't think they'll discuss this issue directly with Israel but could do it through the International Committee of the Red Cross or a Muslim party." He did not specify what Moslem party would qualify as intermediary.

Israel wants seven of its troops who disappeared in Lebanon, with three being held by Hizballah, to be released. Mr. al-Musawi accused the U.S. Government "of being held hostage by the Zionist lobby and the British Government of following the directives of the Americans." He said the hostage problem was triggered by Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, adding that "from that time onward the Americans and other Westerners in Lebanon were kidnapped.

Hizballah Issues Statement on UN Resolution

NC0604160991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Apr 91

[Text] Reacting to events in the Gulf arena, Hizballah has issued a statement. It said: At a time when the criminal Saddam regime continues to commit the most hideous massacres against the oppressed Iraqi people who reject the despotic rule, the long-standing American aggression against the Islamic nations is still continuing. Within this context, America recently issued Resolution 687 through the Security Council with the intent to tighten its grip on Iraq, the future of its people, and its resources and policy; and to pursue the policy of maintaining its hegemony and domination of the entire region.

The statement added: It is no longer a secret that the American aggression has continued through many episodes and links, starting with the work to consolidate Saddam's military arsenal so that it could carry out the mission of bringing down the blessed Islamic revolution and containing the Islamic awakening. It would do this by exploiting the Saddam regime's recklessness and historic mistakes prompted by personal haughtiness and political pomp, which made him imagine that his role in standing against the Islamic renaissance would make him America's first man in the Gulf. The American aggression also included a massive Western military campaign that led to the destruction of two Islamic countries, in terms of peoples and resources.

The Hizballah statement went on to say: The Iraqi political, economic, and military decisionmaking falls within the framework of the American intention to establish a regional security order under which the region will be subjected to American policies and interests. This resolution does not affect the despotic Iraqi regime as

much as it hurts the Iraqi people's strength, movement, and existence, not for one generation but for many generations to come. Undoubtedly, this resolution contravenes the simplest human principles and ethical and legal values that do not force the punishment of one individual for the crime of another individual. This is even more true when the issue concerns a whole people because of mistakes one person imposed upon a people who never acknowledged this person's rule and policies. The Iraqi regime never expressed its people's will, whether in assuming power or regarding this regime's hostile policies. The best proof of this is the comprehensive and overwhelming popular uprising in Iraq which aims to bring down the rejected and despotic regime.

The Hizballah statement noted that the Western alliance led by America behaves in a way that allows the regime to pursue its crime and tyranny so that this regime's temporary survival would be the key to absolute control of the future of Iraq and its people. The Security Council has turned into a puppet of the United States, especially in the wake of international changes. It maintains the silence of the dead over the regime's horrible massacres against all sectors of the Iraqi people.

The statement said: By this act, the Security Council once again fails the test of all oppressed peoples' confidence and appears in its real shape because it is one of the global circles of hegemony and arrogance.

Hizballah's statement concluded by saying: In view of all this, we declare our condemnation of the new Security Council resolution and denounce this path which aims at preserving Saddam. We express our concern about international institutions being turned into tools to legitimize American global domination. We condemn the world's silence and the massacres being committed by the regime that domineers the Iraqi people. We remind you that the night of oppression in Iraq will not last long and that the night is always followed by daybreak.

Hizballah Official Calls for Continued Jihad

NC0904144691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim has said: No one should think at any moment that we will abandon the march of Islam, irrespective of the difficult conditions and magnitude of the plots against it. We will continue to bear the trust of the blood which was shed in the name of Islam. He noted that what Israel wants now is to try to draw Lebanon into surrender negotiations through American shuttle diplomacy, which has exhausted what the Arabs and Muslims can offer through dialogue.

His Eminence Shaykh Qasim added: Frankly, we think that the only solution to the Palestinian problem is through the continuation of military jihad against the Zionist entity. There is absolutely no other solution, and there can be no reconciliation, negotiations, sitting around tables, or American or international assurances. The resistance rifle alone can liberate and alone can achieve victory and glory.

His eminence concluded: We say to everyone that we will not abandon the resistance rifle, which is confronting the occupiers. We will not stop sacrificing our blood to remove this usurping entity.

Commentary Views Cease-Fire Resolution

NC0804123691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Political commentary: "His Name is a Blueprint for War"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With each passing day, the Arabs and the world understand the extent of the disgraceful crushing defeat Saddam Husayn inflicted upon the nation. With each passing day, new dire consequences brought on by the father of allegations in the mother of defeats become ever more apparent to those who still possess some sense of shame. [passage omitted]

Today we are confronted with a new consequence and a new political plan that contains the blueprint for a new war. The latest cease-fire resolution adopted by the American UN Security Council provides for the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force on the Iraq-Kuwait border. Bush promised to participate in this force along with the other major powers which possess the right of veto.

Bush also promised a surprise that will be announced in its own good time. British newspapers have reported that Bush is thinking about maintaining a permanent presence in southern Iraq and establishing security zones for Iraqi refugees who are risking death by drowning, starvation, and exposure in their flight from Saddam's justice [word as heard] and his peerless ability to commit crimes.

The list of notable feats in which Saddam basks and which he brought on the nation in his name and by virtue of his sins is too long for us to list here. His name is a blueprint for war [play on meaning of Saddam as one who clashes or confronts] and his nickname [play on Abu-'Uday, with Abu meaning father of and 'Udwan—root of 'Uday—meaning aggression] is synonymous with excesses and the perpetration of deeds never before witnessed in history. There is no room here to speak of the psychological harm and the national and individual frustration this tyrant has brought upon the Arabs and Muslims.

Apparently matters are still in their early stage, and we have not yet seen the full ramifications of a direct U.S. presence involved in the source of Arab oil and the Kaaba of the Muslims. We have not yet fully understood the meaning of the new precedent by which the Security Council placed an international police and peacekeeping force between two neighboring Arab countries in a demilitarized zone.

On top of all this, Baghdad recently announced that the Islamic Republic had violated the two-year old cease-fire agreement between the two countries. Meanwhile, Bush announced that he was optimistic that Iraq would respond positively to the conditions of its own surrender. If we add to this Washington's warning not to intervene in Iraq's internal affairs, if we follow the U.S. equivocation in its dealing with all factions of the Iraqi opposition, if we examine Iraq's formal accusation that Iran is violating the cease-fire, if we scrutinize the new U.S. policy of dealing with crises and ruling regimes in the world, and if we study Saddam's history, his name, and his sins, we will discover that his name is indeed synonymous with blueprints for wars and that his satanic mind is preparing for a new war against the Islamic Republic.

At first glance, such a development seems quite unlikely. When we consider that the only penance Washington will accept for Saddam's continued hold on power is his involvement in a new war against Islam, however, this view gains credibility. Indeed, in this American age perhaps such a development would be the prelude to the restoration of the unionist pan-Arab ties between Saddam and the other rulers of the pro-American Arab regimes.

By such a satanic solution, which the United States may pursue as it did in similar cases in the past, Saddam will provide himself and his regime with a new beginning similar to the earlier beginning which allowed him to build his huge war machine. Doubtlessly the United States, which was forced to leave Iran like a dog with its tail between its legs, continues to seek opportunities to try once again to crush decisively the Islamic revolution, the only place of real independence in the world, and the ideas of Imam Khomeyni, may he be sanctified.

If existing military and economic balances do not allow Saddam to wage this postulated war today, new circumtances may make it possible in the future. Meanwhile, nothing must prevent America from planting this mine, protecting it, and keeping it ready for the opportune moment.

We should not forget that the presence of the Khalq hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in Iraq bolsters this possibility.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And the unbelievers plotted and planned, and God too planned, and the best of planners is God. Verily speaks the Almighty. [Koranic verse]

Commentary Discusses U.S. Actions in the Gulf

NC0704205491 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 7 Apr 91

[Commentary: "Saddam Remains America's Best Choice"]

[Text] (?In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate). The Baghdad [word indistinct] are required to [word indistinct] even if for a specific period of time, because only the best regime and the most vicious authority can annihilate tens of thousands of Iraqis without batting an eyelid. It is a tested regime with experience far surpassing that of the rulers of dark rooms and secret police generals in the Third World.

Had the U.S. really been sympathetic towards the Iraqi people, not with the authority in Baghdad, and had it really been willing to depose the rule of Saddam it would have used one of its many methods to prevent the massacres being perpetrated in northern and southern Iraq. But, and this is stated clearly and openly, the Americans cannot tolerate the emergence of an Islamic authority in Baghdad because it would pose a major threat to America's interests in the region, shake the rule of amirs and kings of [word indistinct], and promote and expand Islamic fundamentalism [words indistinct].

This is the U.S. logic concerning Islam and the future of Iraqi politics. The Americans still [words indistinct] prefer Saddam's regime, which has strongly shaken peace and security in the Gulf and effectively threatened not only the Kuwaiti regime but the (?Gulf's) political order. Saddam was even quoted as saying that he strongly regretted that he did not occupy Saudi Arabia after invading Kuwait. He said verbatim: I strongly regretted not invading Saudi Arabia after Kuwait. We took Kuwait in two hours; the invasion of Saudi Arabia would have taken two days.

This is the man who flamed the war that destroyed everything in the Gulf, and who ignited fires that are still raging in thousands [as heard] of oil wells in Kuwait. This is the man whom the Americans threatened to overthrow and [word indistinct]. But now the Americans prefer this man to the Islamic movement in Iraq [words indistinct], which has never perpetrated a crime in its political life.

The U.S. is also keeping Saddam for a certain period to destroy what its aircraft have left intact, and to kill and wipe out those who survived the U.S. onslaught on Iraq. Moreover, the U.S., which implicitly pushed Saddam to invade Kuwait and later turned against him, knows what it wants; it destroyed what it has destroyed, and pushed Iraq back to the pre-industrial age, as a Western economic expert has stressed. And now, the United States is proceeding with the destruction of Iraq by Saddam's own hands. The U.S. consequently wants to lay a circle of fire around Iraq's destruction and damage so that no Iraqi can engage in building and constructing the country after the removal of the authority in Baghdad. This is to be achieved through the latest humiliating Security Council resolution.

This resolution firms up Saddam's position and perhaps allows him to complete the genocide against the opposition and the Muslims. From another perspective, the resolution constitutes an assassination of today's Iraq, tomorrow's Iraq, and the Iraq of freedom and progress.

Congratulations to Saddam's enthusiasts and Saddam's Arabs for all those [word indistinct] promoted by this killer maniac about [words indistinct]. Not only this, but Saddam is now brandishing his sword to kill and slay mercilessly.

But it should be said that the uprising that emerged in Iraq will not die and will never abate because it came to life through natural birth and because the bone-breaking between the regime and the Iraqi people cannot possibly be suppressed by new oppression. Indeed, the uprising is expected to take the form of strong hit-and-run actions against the regime. There is no room for a reconciliation between the people and the regime, which is suffering a major weakness compared to his past strength.

If the U.S. has so far succeeded in carefully playing Iraq's game and managed to blackmail and badly weaken the regime, it does not mean the U.S. has become the inevitable fate of Iraq's popular uprising or of Iraq's freemen. No matter how strong and tough Saddam is, he is now in his weakest state in terms of politics and authority. The Iraqi opposition started the march to overthrow the Baghdad regime and they must complete this march to the end regardless of the cost. The return of the situation to what it was before would mean that nothing will remain in Iraq, that the people of the south will be annihilated, and that the people of the north will remain stuck between Turkey and Iran for a long time. All this means that any plan for future opposition in Iraq will not succeed. It is not too late; there is hope, and victory and help come from God, not from the U.S., France, or others. It comes from the one, strong God, and it is he who defends believers and grants them victory, as he stresses in his holy book.

Mubarak Briefs Al-Hirawi on Contacts With Shamir

NC0804081991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has received a message from his Egyptian counterpart, Husni Mubarak. According to media sources, the message includes Mubarak's affirmation that he had contacted U.S. President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, and enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in regard to the application of the al-Ta'if agreement and to arrange for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all Lebanese territory so that the Lebanese Government can establish authority over all of the country.

According to the reports, Mubarak disclosed that Yitzhaq Shamir requested a meeting with both Mubarak and al-Hirawi in order to discuss security arrangements in Lebanon. Mubarak, however, insisted on knowing Israel's conditions before agreeing to hold a meeting of this sort.

According to Mubarak's message, Shamir set several conditions which Egypt regarded as detrimental to Lebanon's security and sovereignty. One of these was that Israel would maintain a security border strip inside Lebanon in which its forces would be deployed.

Mubarak's message noted that Shamir asked that Egypt not object to these conditions. Egypt, however, rejected them. It also rejected the principle of direct contacts between Israel and the Lebanese Government. Egypt insisted that Syria participate in any solution connected with the Lebanese crisis. This information was made public by Cairo media sources.

Report Denied

NC0804105691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 8 apr 91

[Text] The media affairs branch of the Presidential Office's General Directorate has denied a report first broadcast by Radio Monte Carlo and subsequently disseminated by the domestic media about the contents of the message President Ilyas al-Hirawi received from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The directorate issued a statement saying this report has absolutely no connection with the facts and that the message President al-Hirawi received dealt with Arab League affairs and the election of a new Arab League secretary general.

The Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in Cairo had earlier quoted so-called informed sources as saying that President Mubarak told President al-Hirawi that he had held meetings with the U.S. and French Presidents and the Israeli prime minister regarding the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425. The report claimed that Shamir requested a meeting with the Egyptian and Lebanese presidents to discuss security arrangements in Lebanon and that he set conditions, including the maintenance of the border strip and the continued deployment of Israeli forces there. The report added that Egypt rejected the Israeli conditions and the principle of conducting direct contacts between Israel and Lebanon without Syrian participation.

Syria's Defense Minister Comments on Militias

NC0804180491 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Text] Commenting on the issue of militias, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said in Zgharta today that no obstacles will delay the solutions to Lebanon's problems and that militias will become a thing of the past.

The Syrian deputy prime minister and defense minister emphasized that no obstacle will succeed because the train is on the right track. He added that the Lebanese Army is capable of overcoming any obstacle.

Talas was speaking to reporters following his visit to former President Sulayman Franjiyah today. Talas is

leading a high-ranking Syrian military delegation comprised of Chief of Staff Major General 'Ali Aslan, Commander of Syrian forces in Lebanon Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, and Commander of Syrian forces in the north Major General Sulayman al-Hasan. Former Deputy Antoine al-Hirawi and Deputy 'Abdallah al-Rasi were also present at the meeting.

In a statement he made upon leaving Franjiyah's palace, Talas said: It is necessary for us, when we come to inspect the Syrian forces in the north, to meet with His Excellency former President Sulayman Franjiyah, who is considered one of the nationalist symbols in Lebanon and the Arab world due to his values and glorious deeds. This makes him the [word indistinct] for us, particularly his friendship with President al-Asad.

Asked if he conveyed a specific message, Talas said: I have conveyed the greetings of President al-Asad to former President Franjiyah.

Responding to a question about obstacles that could delay the course of the solution in Lebanon, Talas said that no obstacles can succeed because the train has already started and is on the right track. He added that the Lebanese Army is capable of eliminating all obstacles.

Asked if this means all the non-Lebanese militias, Talas said: Certainly. There will be no militias in Lebanon.

Responding to a question about Resolution 425, Talas said: I believe that the prospects are better now for the implementation of this resolution.

Asked about the Damascus Declaration and the possibility of Lebanon joining it, the Syrian defense minister said: I hope that Lebanon will join in this declaration because it is a cherished part of the Arab nation. Since Damascus is close to Beirut it is important that Beirut be in agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Leaders Support Parliamentary Appointments

NC0904082791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Though disbanding the militia is the focus of attention, it has not diverted attention from the issue of parliamentary appointments. Phalangist leader Minister George Sa'adah proposed that the deceased partisan deputies be replaced by persons chosen by their parties, as parties are a mainstay of democracy. He proposed that a form of consultation and careful examination be conducted about the appointment of remaining deputies at the district level, involving official agencies, as well as professional, administrative, student, and spiritual bodies. This kind of consultation will help achieve a national and political balance in light of the spirit of the al-Ta'if accord.

The joint parliamentary committees will meet on Thursday to discuss a bill on amending the election law to pave the way for discussing it in a public session.

Ministers Walid Junblatt and Marwan Hamadah held talks with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus on the latest Lebanese developments. Defense Minister Michel al-Murr also visited the Syrian capital yesterday.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-LIWA' published today, Junblatt said that civil administration will remain, though in other forms. He added: With the new administrative organization, the civil administration will be legalized and serve as a local administration for the area. In all countries there is a local government, that is, local administration.

Junblatt admitted that the appointment of deputies is unpopular. He expressed support for it if it happens, considering that the current Chamber of Deputies is illegal, because the mere renewal of its term renders it unconstitutional.

Cabinet Discusses Militias, Resignations

NC1004171491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] At the conclusion of its meeting today, the Cabinet designated locations for returning heavy- and medium- caliber weapons at the military zones' headquarters, stipulating that the return process will be completed by the end of this month. A timetable for the return will be fixed at a later date. The Cabinet also learned of the points raised by the committees entrusted with following up the implementation of the outstanding provisions of al-Ta'if Accord.

The Cabinet announced that the committee in charge of arranging the absorption of the militias led by Minister Khatchig Babikian will meet at 0900 next Friday.

The Cabinet discussed the issue of the resignation of Army officers, as the period established for this process expires on 22 April. It decided to accept all resignations submitted by officers to Army headquarters, the Ministry of Defense, and the Interior Ministry. A total of 141 Army officers, 21 security forces personnel, and nine public security personnel have submitted their resignations.

The Cabinet also decided to retire 31 Army officers, most of whom do not currently occupy positions, and decided to place 15 officers at the disposal of the defense minister.

The president briefed the Cabinet on his effort to place Resolution 425 on the agenda of talks which Secretary Baker is scheduled to hold with the Syrian and Egyptian presidents.

As for the issue of General 'Awn, the Cabinet asserted that the Lebanese Government recalls the fundamental principles on which the Lebanese system is based—the principles of Lebanese sovereignty, the rule of law, and the separation of powers—and that the cabinet is aware

that the issue of Gen. 'Awn cannot be excluded from the framework of Lebanese law and the principles of international relations.

The Cabinet also agreed on the payment of arrears to the European Credit Bank and accepted a $60 million Saudi grant.

Party Leaders Reject Disarming of Resistance

NC1004182791 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi has said: We cannot accept the disarming of the resistance. He said he believes there must be a distinction between the weapons of the resistance and those of the militias.

Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi said that talk about Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon is a delusion and deception. He added that such talk is intended to stifle the resistance and to provide security and stability for Israel.

At a banquet in Sidon attended by Palestinian and Nasirite Popular Organization officials, Hizballah leader Shaykh Na'im Qasim said: We will not forsake our rifles which resist the enemy. The only solution for the Palestinian cause is in the continuation of military jihad against Israel.

Commentary Views Israeli Stand on Mideast Peace

NC1004155991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israel's fear of and resistance to peace in the region has never before been so clear to the world, while the Arabs' interest in and serious pursuit of peace has never before been so evident. Israel had long sought to mislead the world by portraying the Arabs as the ones who rejected the peace it so strongly desired.

During past years, particularly during the more than 20 years since the June 1967 aggression, Israel had cloaked its peace-rejecting intentions with various claims designed to enable it to maintain its occupation of Arab territories and to compel the Arabs to relinquish their rights. It has promoted the theory that its security can only be guaranteed by its continued grip on the occupied Arab territories and the maintenance of military superiority over all Arabs.

The Gulf war and its aftermath have demolished many old concepts, including the Israeli security and military superiority theories. The international consensus which was evident in the war and the growing international desire to find a just settlement to the region's issues have created an impetus to pressure Israel, in particular, to yield to the international desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. This impetus is clear in the current dynamic diplomatic moves to prevent this opportunity from being missed and to capitalize on the favorable regional and international climates to coordinate peace efforts.

In response to these moves and with a view to breaking the international momentum which has been exerting pressure, Israel embarked on a course of forwarding misleading proposals aimed at redirecting pressure away from it and toward the Arabs. It began to promote notions such as the building of bridges of confidence, notions which seek to extract greater concessions from Arabs and to compel them to yield in the face of Israel's intransigent and hardline approach.

If we consider these Israeli proposals, it becomes quite clear that what Israel wants to obtain in advance is what should come about as a result of a just and comprehensive peace, rather than prior to such peace. It also becomes clear to us that the real aim of these proposals is to stall the peace process by putting the cart before the horse.

All Arabs understand Israel's past and present goals, and realize that such proposals seek not only to weaken the international momentum for peace, but also hope to sow disorder in the Arab position, whether through exerting pressure on this position from the outside or through shaking it from within. The Arabs' awareness of Israel's intentions, however, has deprived Israel of this opportunity—and will no doubt continue to do so—by hardening their stands in the face of Israeli maneuvers and by coordinating their stands among themselves and with the international community to thwart these maneuvers.

Arabs are today more optimistic than ever about the approach of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, built on the basis of intentional legitimacy, especially UN Resolutions 242 and 338. They are also confident that the international community will not run out of means to create the appropriate atmosphere and circumstances as soon as possible for holding the international conference stipulated by Security Council Resolution 344 to achieve that solution.

Papers Say Israel Undermines Peace Prospects

NC1004094191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Apr 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Tel Aviv rulers are sparing no effort to undermine all existing opportunities to find a just solution to the Palestinian issue and to the regional conflict.

It is well known that these opportunities have surfaced because of several factors. One of these is that the international community has reached the conclusion that it is important to resolve the crisis in the region. There is an international consensus on the rejection of aggression, expansionism, and occupation.

The U.S. position has undergone positive changes in the Arab-Israeli conflict since the meeting in Geneva between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and George Bush. After that meeting the U.S. side confirmed its belief that diplomatic efforts should be mobilized to find a comprehensive solution to the conflict based on the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The international consensus that appeared during the Gulf war provided the effective means to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This was a good example of how international cooperation can contribute to the solutions to complicated and dangerous issues.

TISHRIN adds: All these factors have produced good opportunities for a just solution in the Middle East. The rulers of Tel Aviv, by nature hostile to peace, are trying to undermine these opportunities and banish every hope for ending tensions in the region.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: International consensus, which imposed a solution in the Gulf crisis, should continue and should serve to impose a just and comprehensive solution, a solution that ends the occupation, terminates the threat of Israel's expansionism and aggression, and restores the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Writing on the same topic, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Just before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in occupied Palestine as part of his second regional tour to discuss Middle East issues and search for a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Israel's leaders started making announcements dismissing the possibility of Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan. The Israeli leaders said that they are ready for a dialogue with the Arabs on the basis of Yitzhaq Shamir's 1989 proposals, adding that such a dialogue does not in any way denote the slightest commitment on their side to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli position has undergone no change since the aggression of June 1967. Israel's leaders were not content to speak only for themselves, but also spoke on behalf of the U.S. Administration. The Israeli ambassador to Washington said that the United States is not putting any pressure on Israel for one formula or anther.

The paper wonders: What did the Israeli leaders leave to James Baker, who came to seek peace, to tell them? Do these statements amount to a declaration of war, not just against the Arabs, but against the entire international community? The entire world has come to the conclusion since the Gulf war that all international issues should be resolved within the framework of the United Nations.

The paper notes that it is no longer acceptable for the international community, as represented by the UN Security Council, to use double standards in dealing with international issues. A firm international stand is needed to end all policies of aggression by all parties. It is necessary to implement the UN resolutions precisely, even if that means using the same methods as those in the Gulf war to implement these resolutions, for this is the only way to maintain the credibility of international resolutions.

The paper concludes by saying: Israel would be greatly mistaken in assuming that the Arabs would agree to any diminished proposals or solutions. The Arabs seek their full rights as endorsed by international resolutions.

Israel's Stand Seen as Obstacle to Peace

NC0904055191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "Israeli Rejection," TISHRIN writes: Israeli officials indicate no change in Israel's intransigent and aggressive position. The only new thing is that their statements coincide with the visit to Israel by James Baker, U.S. secretary of state, who is touring a number of countries in the region in a bid to stimulate the Middle East peace process.

Israel is rejecting the international conference and voicing its preference for isolated solutions and deals. Israel also wants to separate the Palestinian problem, which represents the essence of the Middle East conflict, from other, secondary problems. By doing so, Israel is actually erecting obstacles to Baker's mission in a flagrant attempt to thwart that mission, turn the clock backwards, and impede efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace.

TISHRIN adds: Even more dangerous is that the enemy leaders are asking the Arabs to take such measures as ending the state of war without offering anything in return. This means that the Israeli leaders want both land and peace. There is nothing to indicate that they will not engage in new aggressive and expansionist wars.

The newspaper concludes its editorial by saying: The international community, with the United States at its head, is currently making serious efforts to implement the UN resolutions. The international community is required to identify the true problem, which is Israel's intransigence. The international community has sufficient means and capabilities to carry out its task. It should advance the peace process by showing commitment to a comprehensive and just peace.

TISHRIN on Baker's Tour, Israel's Position

NC0804071191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Writing under the headline "The Road to Peace Is Clear," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The U.S. secretary of state has embarked on a new tour of the Middle East in search of a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Meanwhile, President George Bush has expressed his willingness to visit the area if Secretary Baker is able to make tangible progress in his peace efforts.

There is no doubt that the U.S. activities reflect the commitment President George Bush made during his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad in Geneva regarding the need to work for a just and comprehensive peace. President Bush also publicly confirmed his commitment to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN says: With the end of the Gulf crisis, all countries in the world agreed that Israel must adopt sincere stands with regard to the issues of Palestinian rights and the occupied territories and demonstrate its desire for peace. Israel was not slow to respond. Shamir and other officials in the Zionist entity announced their rejection of an international conference and Palestinian rights and their commitment to occupation and to devouring and Judaizing the Arab territories.

TISHRIN says: We do not think that the Arab call for the implementation of international resolutions upsets anyone in the world but Israel. Israel rejects these

resolutions because it rejects peace and is committed to expansionism. The Arabs, throughout the past years as well as in the recent Damascus Declaration, have proved their firm desire for peace and for the achievement of a settlement.

TISHRIN says: The road to peace is clear. Peace requires Israel's recognition of Palestinian rights and its withdrawal from the occupied territories. An international conference is the optimum framework for the realization for peace. Will Israel submit to the international will and declare its readiness to accept a just and comprehensive peace?

Commentary Terms U.S. Efforts on Peace 'Serious'

NC0804154591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 8 Apr 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who has embarked on a new tour of the Middle East, said that the peace opportunities created by the new situation after the Gulf crisis will not remain for long. Therefore, he added, these opportunities should be seized while they are still viable.

President George Bush said that he is willing to visit the region if Baker achieves tangible progress in his peace efforts. It is clear that this U.S. concern reflects a serious effort to rid the world of an explosive hotbed of conflicts that poses a constant threat to world peace and security. Add to this the fact that U.S. and international credibility in general are now being put to the test; therefore, any disavowal of the proclaimed commitments would deal a strong blow to the international community and to U.S. policy itself.

Because peace opportunities might not remain very long, as Secretary Baker noted, it is important to concentrate only on the real basics and facts that can open the doors to the aspired settlement. The settlement should be comprehensive and just and such a settlement can only be achieved by addressing the essence of the problem within the context of an international peace conference, because what is required is the implementation of UN resolutions.

U.S. President George Bush and Secretary Baker have declared that Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis of the aspired peace. These two resolutions provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the establishment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, regaining the occupied territories, and the establishment of peace. Resolution 344, which was issued immediately after these two resolutions, calls for convening an international peace conference in the region, because that is the best formula for reaching a just, comprehensive solution.

Because the U.S. and international effort is serious this time, Israel recently began to put forward ideas and suggestions that, in effect, aim at foiling this effort and setting the clock back. These ideas and suggestions talk of dividing the conflict, of unilateral settlements and piecemeal solutions, and of replacing the international conference with formulas that have no substance and that strip the international conference of its real significance. All this is in addition to demands for signs of good faith as a precondition for accepting peace, despite the fact that Israel is being asked by the Arabs and the world to offer such signs of good faith.

The only aim behind all Israeli proposals is to thwart peace efforts and to keep the situation in the region an explosive and precarious one. The enemy leaders' statements maintaining their position on the occupied territories, settlement, and expansion are part of this objective.

Gentlemen, the entire world knows perfectly well that the only guarantor of security in the Middle East is a just and comprehensive peace that restores the occupied territories to their rightful owners and creates an honorable solution to the Palestinian people's cause. This is because expansion, aggression, and the stockpiling of weapons have not achieved, and will not achieve, security. U.S. officials themselves have reminded the leaders of the Zionist entity of this fact. Also, reviving old projects, such as the self-rule project, which was rejected by the Arabs and the Palestinian people, is only an attempt to create obstacles to the Baker mission. If Israel were sincere in its peace efforts, why does it object to the very idea of the international conference, despite the world consensus, including Washington's, on accepting this conference, although views on its date, and other necessary arrangements and preparations might vary?

The international conference embodies international legitimacy. Its objective is to implement resolutions passed by international legitimacy and to dedicate this legitimacy to being a major judge in resolving all contentious disputes in the world.

Israel knows better than others that peace is impossible in the region without ending the occupation of Arab territories, and by keeping the Palestinian situation unresolved. If this is the case, then why does it not declare unequivocally its adherence to international resolutions in exchange for peace, instead of wasting time and efforts in mazes that serve neither the region nor peace?

The Arabs have declared their commitment to peace and have demonstrated their intention to reach it. This intention, however, is still opposed by Israel, which, to say the least, wants to block a comprehensive, just, and permanent peace, and is seeking to consolidate occupation, continue the schemes of Judaization, settlement, and changing the features of Arab territory, and consequently, to maintain the explosive situation.

Peace opportunities are available now, and the road to peace is clear. The Americans, Europeans, and the whole world understand the seriousness of Arab intentions. It

remains for them to convince Israel of the need for the desired peace so that these opportunities will not be lost, and consequently, international credibility will not be shaken and the United Nations will not lose the full-fledged role desired by the peoples of the world.

Prospects for International Conference Viewed

NC0404095091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 4 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria and its Exceptional Role in the Current Phase," AL-BA'TH says: Syrian Arab political moves are continuing on several levels and in several places. Immediately after the cessation of the Gulf war, Damascus became the mecca of several Arab and international delegations. Damascus then embarked on a comprehensive move toward Arab and world capitals. A Cairo summit was held between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak.

The newspaper stresses that Syria's intensive political moves at the current delicate and grave stage, led with wisdom, courage and pan-Arab concern by President Hafiz al-Asad, aims at enabling the Arabs to take the initiative before they are overtaken by events.

The newspaper notes that Syria's stand in this direction is not new but is an assertion of its pan-Arab stand. Syria and other Arab parties have accepted the international conference, approved the UN resolutions, and welcomed international cooperation to establish just and comprehensive peace.

The newspaper says: When Syria insists at this stage on reactivating the Arab role and on cementing the big crack in the Arab position, it does so because it realizes the magnitude of the challenges required by the coming phase to confront the Zionist strategy, which has not changed and which is being emphasized every day.

Under the headline "The International Peace Conference," TISHRIN says: Intensive efforts are being made to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region. They are good and positive efforts, which all parties, with the exception of Israel, hope will produce constructive and clear results.

The newspaper adds: In refusing to convene an international conference, Israel is clearly seeking to circumvent the available peace prospects, to step up its colonization plans, and to consolidate its occupation of Arab lands. Israel wants to implement its expansionist plans and aggressive ambitions of establishing greater Israel as mentioned in the Torah.

The newspaper believes that any formula not based on the international conference, on UN resolutions, and on the current climate of detente will not achieve peace. The newspaper concludes: The international conference alone will force Israel to accept peace. It alone will not give Israel any room to escape its obligations and responsibilities toward the UN resolutions, especially the resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Paper Hails Lebanese Policy To Disband Militias

NC0504171591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0450 GMT 5 Apr 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Regarding the Lebanese situation, AL-THAWRAH addressed the Lebanese issue of disbanding militias, which has been a great battle for Lebanon. It said: When the legitimate Lebanese Government affirms that the issue of disbanding militias is Lebanon's great and basic battle and is treating it as a priority, this means that the language of weapons, fighting, and explosions, can no longer be acceptable because the language of war has been rejected by all those who honestly intend to join the march of the legitimate government and national reconciliation on the basis of the al-Ta'if agreement.

The legitimate government, which has made important and serious strides toward retrieving its authority, reviving the role of the legitimate institutions, and realizing concord, no longer accepts the presence of tools used for explosions in the hands of a militia, party, or region. An explosive situation cannot be defused completely when any party other than the legitimate government—represented by the army, which has been united on legitimate grounds—holds weapons.

Afghanistan

Wakil Appeals to UN Secretary General on Khowst

LD1004192191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdul Wakil has sent the following message addressed to His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, on the grave situation that has developed in Khowst as a result of the inhumane behavior of the Pakistani military and the extremist opposition:

Your Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, Your Excellency: I would like to draw your attention to the sad and grave situation in Khowst since the incidents there a week ago. As stated in the previous letter, Pakistani army commandos, militia, and regular units participated in aggression against Khowst with various advanced weapons, rockets, anti-aircraft guns and tanks equipped with advanced guidance systems, causing the death of hundreds of our compatriots and the devastation of that beautiful city. Direct participation of the Pakistani army is such an obvious fact that Pakistan's own press does not hide it. For instance, Pakistan's JANG newspaper has reported that about 4,000 Pakistani military personnel took part in the aggressive operations against Khowst. The FRONTIER POST newspaper has estimated the Pakistani army's loss of life at more than 100. The transfer to Pakistan of its corpses still goes on. Pakistan rudely claims that those soldiers were killed in the Gulf war. Eyewitnesses to the Khowst incident say that Pakistani army personnel entered Khowst city wearing their normal uniforms and were sitting on armored vehicles of the Pakistani army.

I am fully confident that your excellency will not leave Pakistan's direct and open aggression against a neighboring country—which has taken place in contravention of all accepted international norms and the Geneva agreements—uninvestigated and uncondemned. Now that about a week has elapsed since those bloody incidents, the city of Khowst and the lives and property of its people are subjected to inhumane and ruthless plunder by the extremist opposition. Not only eyewitnesses but also the international press present irrefutable evidence on the plunder of property of the people of Khowst and their transfer to Pakistani territory, to the extent of carrying off the doors and windows of people's dwellings and public offices. Inhumane and unlawful treatment of POW's and war wounded has been reported.

The government of the Republic of Afghanistan has obtained much information on the savage torture of prisoners by the extremist opposition and Pakistani officials. Following the advice of Pakistani advisors, the extremists are so savage that they refuse to return the dead bodies of martyrs to the government of the Republic of Afghanistan or to bury them in line with the Islamic rituals of the people of Afghanistan. This attitude of Pakistan and the extremist opposition is against all Islamic, moral and neighborly principles and is a manifestation of the expansionist and aggressive intentions of the government of Pakistan and its mad hostility toward the people of Afghanistan.

The government of Pakistan hypocritically wants to show itself as the defender of the prosperity and tranquility of Khowst. I should like to note that Khowst was not attacked by us but by Pakistan. Khowst was destroyed not by us but by the government of Pakistan. Khowst is not being plundered by us but by the extremists and the government of Pakistan. Senator Qazi Husein Ahmad, Amir of Jamaat Islami of Pakistan, one of the largest parties of the governing coalition, recently said that the Khowst war has pushed Pakistan's borders to the Oxus river, that is, the northern border of Afghanistan, and that Pakistan does not recognize any border up to the Oxus. It has now been revealed that the senator has been given by the government of Pakistan responsibility for the political affairs of the Afghan opposition following the fall of Khowst, and according to the international press, he supervises the division of war booty among the parties.

This statement, which indicates the true expansionist intentions of the government of Pakistan, has brought about a dangerous situation in our region. Therefore I request your excellency once again to prevent the government of Pakistan from continuing this bloody and inhumane policy and to bring pressure to bear on it to agree to the release of POW's; to refrain from infringing human rights through the torture of POW's; to return the war wounded and the dead bodies of the martyrs; and to create no more obstacles in the way of a political solution of our country's problems and intra-Afghan understanding.

I request you to rapidly exert due efforts to stop Pakistan's aggression against the integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan and to halt the futile killing and bloodshed in our country. [Signed] With renewed respect, Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Ministry To Resume Diplomatic Ties With ROK

LD1004184391 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 91

["Communique issued by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of South Korea"]

[Text] On 19 September 1978 the government of Afghanistan announced the cessation of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea. In the course of [word indistinct] meeting in Seoul from 1 to 10 April 1991, the Afghan minister of planning conveyed a letter from the minister of foreign affairs to the minister of foreign affairs of Korea. The Republic of Afghanistan desires to resume diplomatic relations with the Republic of Korea. The government of the Republic of Afghanistan invites the government of the Republic of Korea to take part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

This matter was raised at a meeting between [words indistinct], ambassador and director of Middle Eastern and African affairs in the Korean Foreign Ministry, and Abdul Hadi Abawi, director general of international economic and financial affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan. Abdul Hadi Abawi was informed that after consulting the authorities of the Republic of Korea, the position of the Republic of Korea will be brought to the information of the Afghan authorities.

Mujahidin Reject Pakistani Peace Initiative

BK1104005491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1743 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Miran Shah, Pakistan, April 10 (AFP)—A top resistance leader who led thousands of guerrillas to victory in the eastern Afghan city of Khowst rejected a Pakistani peace initiative Wednesday, saying: "The mujahidin cannot wait."

"Peace is durable if it comes after war," Jalauddin Haqqani, the overall commander of the resistance, told a news conference in this north western Pakistani town across the border from Khowst. Asked if mujahidin parties would be ready to take a pause in their 12-year struggle to topple the pro-Moscow regime in Kabul, he said a political solution could entail prolonged negotiations.

"The mujahidin cannot wait for a response from Iran or Saudi Arabia," he said, referring to two of the main resistance backers. Pakistan has proposed the ceasefire, saying it was opposed to further bloodshed in Afghanistan where more than one million people have lost their lives since a communist coup in 1979.

Intensifying diplomatic efforts in the aftermath of the March 31 fall of Khowst, Pakistan this week called upon the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and contacted Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, the United States and the Soviet Union to seek a political solution.

"The diplomatic channel would take time to mature" and there is no guarantee that Kabul government attacks on rebels would cease, Mr. Haqqani said, adding that the mujahidin now were concentrating on seizing Ghazni, Logar and Gardez.

The press conference was attended by representatives of six command councils that fought the multi-pronged battle for Khowst. However, a fundamentalist resistance faction, Hezbe Islami, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, opted to "boycott" the press conference, his spokesman Nawab Salim said.

Mr. Salim, whose leader reportedly is at odds with Mr. Haqqani over the distribution of military equipment captured in Khowst, said several commanders were also protesting. Blaming Mr. Haqqani for "hijacking" the victory shared by others, he said the resistance 23-member commanders council of which Mr. Haqqani was a leader, was opposed to "giving credit to one man."

Mr. Haqqani said there was no decision of holding a joint press conference and that he acted as spokesman. He had earlier played down differences with Mr. Hekmatyar saying that the parties would follow an understanding reached before Khowst's fall that light weapons seized would be kept by the mujahidin while heavy equipment would be jointly used in future operations.

"We don't have any quarrel, and reports of difference with Mr. Hekmatyar are not true," he said. "He will share his booty with us and we will share our booty with him." Mr. Haqqani said the resistance was holding up to 3,000 prisoners of war including some 25 Afghan army generals, and stressed that captured officers would not be put on trial.

"We will release all who pledged not to fight against us," he said. He said some 200 Afghan troops were killed in the battle and bodies still lay in Khowst city and its hospital. "We invited International Committe of The Red Cross (ICRC) but they expressed their inability to take away the bodies."

He described as baseless Afghan President Najibullah's accusations that Pakistani troops participated in the battle for Khowst, saying that "unity, better coordination and effective use of adequate supply of arms played a major role in our victory."

The resistance leader also appealed for international help to rebuild Khowst and look after hundreds of wounded POWs and resistance fighters. Blaming Kabul for "human rights violations," he said the U.N. should despatch teams to investigate how many under aged Afghan youth were forcibly drafted into its army.

The international community rushed to rebuild Kuwait after its liberation from Iraq, he said. "We don't have oil in Khowst, but we have a humanitarian problem of building schools, hospitals and resettlings people in Khowst."

Mujahidin Says 25 Generals Captured in Khowst

BK1004144091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1426 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Miran Shah, Pakistan, April 10 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance said Wednesday that 25 Army generals and a deputy defence minister were among some 3,000 government troops captured in the eastern garrison city of Khowst. Jalaluddin Haqqani, who led the multi-party guerrilla force to the March 31 capture of the strategically important city, said scores of officers had been made prisoners of war.

"They are under Mujahidin surveillance until they denounce the regime and pledge not to fight against us."

he told a news conference. The POWs are being treated in accordance with international laws and Islamic principles, he said.

Prisoners said by the Mujahidin to be officers, including generals, were presented to journalists gathered at a religious school in this garrison town in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, about 30 kilometres (19 miles) from Khowst. Prominent among the officers were General Zahir Sulehmal, 48, identified as Afghanistan's deputy defence minister, Lieutenant-General Gul Aqa, commander of the Afghan Army's 25th division, and Major General Qasim, commander of President Najibullah's special guards artillery brigade.

General Shireen Khan, who as chieftain of tribal militia held the honourary rank of general, and Major General Mustafa, a political commissar, were also present. The grey haired General Sulehmal, who was the Kabul regime's most senior official in Khowst, said he was sent there to boost the troops' morale 10 days before the city fell.

"Inclement weather (for flying), lack of supplies and failure to reinforce the troops in the garrison" were cited by the general as the reasons for the fall of Khowst. Gen. Sulehmal did not say if he thought the Afghan Army would regain control of Khowst, as Mr. Najibullah vowed two days previously.

However, in response to a question he said he "did not see any Pakistani troop participation in this war." The Kabul regime has blamed the loss of Khowst on Pakistan support for the Mujahidin fighters. Soon after the journalists arrived here, a military plane began bombing Khowst and sources said Scuds also slammed into the city, which is controlled by various resistance factions.

Gen. Sulehmal did not say how many troops fought the bloody 18-day long battle, nor did he provide the government's casualty figures. The officers, speaking through interpreters provided by the Mujahidin, said they had been treated well and had not been tortured.

Mujahidin Capture Post in Faryab Province

BK1004160491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Reports say that the mujahidin in Afghanistan have captured the Qala-ye Hazar military post near (Shin Sarab) town in Faryab Province. The Kabul forces fled the post, leaving behind a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile, (Asaduz Zamir), a major general of the Kabul regime forces, was killed along with his deputy in a mine blast near (Khajahan) town in the freed [as heard] northern province of Takhar. [Words indistinct] were also destroyed.

Bangladesh

Zia Describes Jail Conditions, Ershad's Transfer

BK1004164291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has sought the cooperation of all forces in consolidating democracy, [words indistinct] and safeguarding the national sovereignty. She was speaking in parliament today on the situation in the country's jails. The prime minister and leader of the house said all should work together to achieve the cherished national objectives.

Begum Zia attributed the unrest in different jails to ("sense) of resistance in the prisoners for a long time resulting from the lack of reforms in prisons. She said her government is trying to solve the jail problems and emphasized steps that have already been taken in this connection. In this connection, she referred to the constitution of a three-member commission to probe the recent unrest in Dhaka Central Jail. Giving an account of the conditions now prevailing in different jails, Begum Zia said the government is taking steps to improve conditions in the jails immediately. Giving a stern warning, she said nobody is above the law and anti-democratic forces trying to create disturbances will be dealt with severely. She stressed the need for the shifting of Dhaka Central Jail from its present site on to (Chahgiri). The prime minister called for concerted efforts for the overall development of the country and ensuring a democratic order to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Begum Zia assured the house that deposed President Ershad would be transferred to central jail as soon as possible in accordance with the law of the country. She sought conesnsus of the house for transferring Ershad to the central jail from Gulshan subjail [as heard]. At this stage, members from both treasury and opposition benches expressed themselves by thumping of desks on the statement of sending Ershad to jail. The leader of the house declared that she has received unanimous assurance from the house over the Ershad issue. She will do the needful as early as possible, Begum Zia added. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman informed the house about a communication from the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on the landing of an Indian Air Force helicopter at (Chharail) on the 30th of last month. The high commissioner explained that the helicopter flying from Agartala had landed in Bangladesh territory due to inclement weather and as such prior permission for landing could not be sought. The High Commission has, however, regretted unintentional violation of Bangladesh airspace and said this will not have any adverse effect on bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

India

Three Punjab Leaders Resign From Congress-I

BK1104052291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] In other political development Major General Rajendra Singh Sparrow, retired a former member of the Lok Sabha, has resigned from the Congress-I. He told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday that he resigned in protest against what he called the Congress-I's failure in effective handling of the major issues of the country. Major General Sparrow also announced that he is forming a new party called the Punjab United Front.

Others who have resigned from the Congress-I along with him includes Mr. Buta Singh Bajwa, general secretary of Punjab Pradesh Congress-I Kisan Khet Majdoor Dal and Dr. Satwant Kaur, joint secretary of Punjab Pradesh Mahila Congress-I.

Two Janata Dal-S Leaders Join Congress-I

BK1004150691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The former union ministers, Dr. Shakilur Rahman and Mr. Bhagya Gowardhan, today joined the Congress-I. Announcing this at a news conference, the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, said that the two Janata Dal-S leaders have joined his party unconditionally.

Hungarian President Gonz Continues Visit

10 Apr Talks Reviewed

LD1004212591 Budapest MTI in English 2019 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] New Delhi, April 10 (MTI)—Talks on all fields of Hungarian-Indian relations and also on international issues were the starting event of Hungarian President Arpad Goncz's official visit to India on Wednesday. Goncz met his Indian counterpart Ramaswamy Venkataraman, held talks behind closed doors with acting Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and met leaders of the most important political parties of India.

In the course of the talks, Goncz stated that India was Hungary's most important partner in Asia. A development of close ties can be promoted by Hungary's democratization, which has a stabilizing effect, Goncz said.

He also spoke about Hungarian-Soviet ties, pointing out that the two countries are proceeding on similar paths towards democracy. During the talks, the two sides discussed issues of economic co-operation.

President Goncz proposed that the two countries start joint development programmes in the fields of electronics, energetics and chemical industry. The Hungarian president invited his Indian counterpart Ramaswamy Venkataraman for a visit to Hungary. The Indian president accepted the invitation.

After talks with the Indian president and vice-president, Goncz met leaders of the most significant parties of India: Rajiv Gandhi, president of the Congress Party, S.R. Bommai, president of the Janata Dal and I.K. Advani, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party. A plenary session of the two negotiating delegations took place in the afternoon, followed by the signing of agreements.

An agreement on cultural exchanges for 1991-1993, a working plan on health care co-operation for 1991-1992 and a co-operation agreement between the Hungarian and Indian radios were signed on Hungary's behalf by Hungarian Ambassador to India Andras Balogh. As a gesture towards Hungary, the Indian hosts have handed to the Hungarian delegation documents concerning the 1956 revolution in Hungary. These documents have so far been handled in the strictest confidence.

In the days of the 1956 revolution and for some months afterwards, there were very close ties between the Indian representation in Budapest and figures of Hungarian democratic revolutionary forces, including Arpad Goncz. In the evening, the Indian president gave a banquet in honour of President Goncz and his entourage.

Acting prime minister of India Chandra Shekhar spoke about Indian-Hungarian ties in an interview given to MTI's correspondent in New Delhi. Fortunately, there are no problems in bilateral ties, he said. The relations of the two countries are characterized by friendship and mutual understanding, with identical views on international political issues being held.

Chandra Shekhar welcomed the democratization process in Hungary and said that India was looking forward to a development of close ties between the two countries, especially in the fields of economics, trade and industrial co-operation. In the course of the Wednesday talks, the two sides agreed that the possibilities of intensifying co-operation should be explored. Three agreements on co-operation have also been signed.

Venkataraman Hosts Banquet

BK1104043491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has called for further strengthening of the United Nations so that the integrity and sovereignty of all nations are protected and preserved. Speaking at a banquet hosted by him for the visiting Hungarian president, Mr. Arpad Goncz, in New Delhi last night, President Venkataraman said Hungary is one of the India's economic partners and India finds in Hungary a willing and active partner in its efforts to change the profile of its foreign trade. He said several pioneering joint ventures in the fields of automobiles, some manufactured products and the hotel industry have been successfully launched. President

Venkataraman also emphasized fruitful cooperation with Hungary in the fields of culture, media, health and science and technology.

In his reply the Hungarian president, Mr. Goncz, said that the change of the political system in Hungary would create more favorable conditions for cooperation with India as ideological barriers have been removed. He said Hungary values are identical with India's and his country has now become more open to the world. Mr. Goncz said Hungary and India have already forged broad relations on the basis of old contacts and traditional [word indistinct] sympathy spanning many centuries. His government wants to further develop these ties. Mr. Goncz also commended India for setting an example by its parliamentary institutions which are internationally recognized as an ideal form of pluralist democracy. He said India has worked its way to be with the world's leading industrialized countries and has considerably improved the living conditions of its people.

Iran

Cabinet Discusses Regional Problems 10 Apr

Pledges Support for Palestinians

LD1004213491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Excerpt] The Cabinet held a session on Wednesday afternoon. First, the session honored International Jerusalem Day, the anniversary of the global protest against the occupation of the holy land of Palestine by the occupying regime of Qods. Then the Cabinet, declaring its support and that of the revolutionary people of Iran for the Palestinian revolutionaries, gave assurances that it will stand alongside the Palestinian Muslim combatants until Qods is freed from the usurping Zionists. [passage omitted]

Views Iraqi Refugees, Allocates Funds

NC1104061691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] The Cabinet, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, met yesterday. During this session, the cabinet paid homage to World Jerusalem Day, the anniversary of global protest against the occupation of the holy land of Palestine by the regime occupying Jerusalem, and reiterated the support of the cabinet and of the Muslim and revolutionary Iranian nation for the Palestinian revolutionaries. It pointed out that the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand with the Muslim Palestinian combatants until Jerusalem is liberated from the usurping Zionists.

Detailed reports on the situation of the Iraqi refugees were then submitted by the head of the Red Crescent Society and by the governors general of West Azerbaijan, Kordestan, Khuzestan, and Bakhtaran. These are the provinces that are receiving Iraqi refugees. The Cabinet then pointed out how much is needed, the facilities necessary to help the refugees, and the need for international mobilization to extend assistance to them. It then allocated 10.5 billion rials in assistance from organizations and from companies affiliated with some of the ministries to meet part of the expenses for refugee relief. This assistance consists of 3 billion rials from companies affiliated with the Ministry of Mines and Metals; 2.5 billion rials from the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone; 2 billion rials from the Ministry of Industries; 1 billion rials each from the Ministry of Heavy Industries and the Kish Development Organization; and half a billion rials each from the companies affiliated with the Ministries of Defense and of Roads and Transport.

During this session the ministers of interior, health, industries, and commerce were assigned to take steps set up camps and meet the food and medical requirements of the Iraqi refugees.

During yesterday's Cabinet meeting Interior Minister Mr. Nuri submitted a report on the status of relief to the Zahedan earthquake victims and pointed out that relief operations are accelerating since a road has been built to the area that was cut off because of the flooding of Shileh River on both sides.

Minister of Energy Mr. Zanganeh also briefed the Cabinet on the completion of the first phase of renovation of the Sefid Rud Dam, which had been damaged during the earthquake in Khordad last year [month beginning 22 May 1990]. According to this report, all renovation on the dam, which will increase its safety during strong earthquakes, will be completed by mid-Tir [month beginning 22 June]. Irrigation of fields and plantations in Gilan Province will be normal this year.

Reportage on Continuing Iraqi Refugee Problem

900,000 Seek Refuge From 'Massacres'

LD1004185191 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Orumiyeh (West Azarbaijan), April 10, IRNA—Sub-zero temperatures caused by yesterday's heavy snowfall in the northwestern Iranian mountain ranges around Sar Dasht is seriously threatening the lives of thousands of starving Iraqi refugees gathered on the Iraqi side of the border.

The Sar Dasht governor told IRNA Wednesday that the number of Iraqi refugees entering Iran through the Sar Dasht crossing totalled 180,000 until 17:00 hours local time (13:30 GMT) today. He said long queues of refugees estimated to number 200,000 could be seen on the other side of the border snaking towards Iran.

Despite the facilities provided so far by the West and East Azarbaijan Provinces for the refugees, there were acute shortages of tents, blankets, clothings, foodstuffs,

and medicines in the region. The number of Iraqis, both Kurds and Arabs, seeking refuge in Iran from the mass massacres of the Baathist regime, reached some 900,000 today, and the figure is expected to rise to two million.

Airspace Open for Relief Work

LD1004194491 Tehran IRNA in English 1632 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 10, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador here, said today that "all world countries including the United States can use Iran's airspace and its western borders to rush relief aid for Iraqis fleeing from the atrocities of the Ba'thist regime.

Mohammad 'Ali Hadi, addressing a press conference also called for "urgent humanitarian help" from member states of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council for the 800,000-plus Iraqi refugees in Iran. The number of refugees may well reach 2 million in the next few days, and Iran is not capable of helping them by itself alone, he said.

The ambassador said that Iran is not interfering in Iraqi internal affairs, but only providing humanitarian aid to the oppressed Iraqi people. Elsewhere Hadi termed Iran's relations with the (P)GCC states as "good", and said contacts are underway for expansion of mutual relations in all fields.

Velayati Comments

LD1004180891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, in an interview with BBC television, answered questions on the status of Iraqi refugees, the creation of a secure zone for Iraqi refugees, the UN's role in resolving the refugee problem, and the release of western hostages in Lebanon.

Commenting on Iran's stance vis-a-vis the creation of a secure zone for Iraqi refugees in northern Iraq, Mr Velayati said: At the moment, the ever-increasing exodus of Iraqi refugees is a major problem and, considering the trend of the exodus, it is imperative that the international community deals with it more actively. He added: We believe that Iraq must remain an independent state. At the same time, a secure area must be created in the north for Iraqi Kurdish refugees, and in the south for that country's Shi'ites. If such solutions are proposed by the United Nations it will be better regarded and explored.

O ur country's foreign minister, regarding the stance of western forces vis-a-vis the extensive attacks by the Iraqi forces against the Iraqi opposition, said: Various world states, especially these of the west, have, in a way, confirmed the Iraqi Government's ground and air attacks against the popular movement in that country, by their illogical silence. Under the present conditions—when it is too late—they only sympathize with the forced exodus of the Iraqi refugees.

Mr. Velayati said: The world states should not allow Saddam to use so many devastating weapons against the people, and for suppressing the popular uprising against the Ba'thist regime. At least the United Nations could support the Iraqi people's movement to create a democracy, and prevent the Iraqi regime's extensive attacks against the people. He added: Right now we are facing a flood of suffering refugees, who are without any resources, and are fleeing the Iraqi regimes bombings and attacks. Unfortunately, the world aid organizations and rich states have so far given only limited assistance.

Regarding the release of western hostages in Lebanon, Mr. Velayati said: We are against any hostage-taking in Lebanon, or any other state. We have worked hard toward achieving the release of the hostages. He added: The final resolution of the hostage issue in Lebanon depends on the good will and efforts of western countries such as the United States and Britain, which should use their influence with the Israelis, and the Phalangists in Lebanon, to release the five Iranian hostages in Lebanon, and nearly 400 innocent Shiite Muslims abducted by Israel from southern Lebanon. He added: If the United States and Britain use their influence with Israel to release the hostages, a new chapter will be opened in this issue.

[Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1017GMT, reporting on Velayati's BBC television interview, adds the following: "In an answer to a question about the 100 Iraqi aircraft now in Iran, and when Iran intends to send them back, Mr Velayati said: As has been announced many times, the figure quoted is not correct. We have 22 Iraqi planes which entered Iran. They will remain in Iran until the end of the crisis, and then we will return them; and of course, if the United Nations asks us to do so."]

French Official Coordinates Aid to Kurds

LD0904210591 Paris Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] Bernard Kouchner [French secretary of state for humanitarian action] announced in Tehran, where he is continuing his humanitarian mission, a four-point agreement with the Iranian authorities in order to coordinate in the best possible way the aid brought to the Kurdish refugees. France has confirmed the purchase of 800 tonnes of food from Iran which will be dispatched to the refugee camps.

Further Help 'Urgently' Needed

LD1104141891 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 11 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 11, IRNA—A sum of rls. [rials] 10.5 billion was allocated by the government to the Iraqi refugees who have escaped the atrocities of the Ba'thist regime. Allocation of the sum, which is donated by organizations and companies affiliated to several ministries, was approved by the Council of Ministers in their Wednesday session.

The session, presided over by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, also assigned the Ministries of Interior, Health, Industries and Commerce to set up new refugee camps and provide foodstuff and medical supplies to the refugees.

Also present in the session were the head of the Red Crescent society and governor generals of the border provinces of West Azerbaijan, Kurdestan, Khuzestan and Bakhtaran. The officials briefed the cabinet ministers on the tragic condition of the refugees who are crossing into Iran and on the difficulties the host provinces are facing concerning provision of the necessary foodstuff and health care. They stressed the need for mobilization of the world countries to extend further assistance to the refugees.

Meanwhile, a five-member parliamentary delegation inspected West Azerbaijan and Bakhtaran border crossings and presented the Majlis donation of rls. 50 million for the refugees to the related authorities. The Majles deputies are also to give five days of their salaries to the refugees.

In a related development a health department official in West Azerbaijan province told IRNA that so far 23,000 afflicted Iraqi refugees have received medical treatment, 800 others are hospitalized while 140 mothers have delivered their babies in the provincial health centers.

Referring to the continuing influx of the refugees to this province, he stressed that further assistance is urgently needed.

In a bid to save the lives of thousands of starving babies, four month rations of powdered milk of Orumiyeh villages, West Azerbaijan province, were distributed among the refugees but the amount was trivial compared with what is needed.

In a similar development, three leaders of the Iraqi Kurdistan Front met with the Iranian ambassador in Damascus to express gratitude to the Islamic Republic for warmly receiving the Kurdish refugees and giving them shelter. They also briefed the ambassador on the atrocities of the Ba'thist forces against Iraqi civilians and criticized the international bodies for keeping silent about Saddam's crimes.

Change of Pilgrimage Supervisors 'New Blow'

LD0904145291 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] By issuing a decree, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i dismissed Majles speaker Mehdi Karrubi from the post of supervisor of Iranian pilgrims and appointed Ahmad Khomeyni to this position. In recent months Mehdi Karrubi had joined the opponents of Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and on several occasions had opposed the government's actions. Mehdi Karrubi's dismissal from the post of supervisor of Iranian pilgrims has been assessed in political circles as a new blow by Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the so-called hardline faction.

Karrubi Discusses Jerusalem Day, Pilgrimage

LD1004114191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] During the open session of the Majles, chaired by Mr. Karrubi this morning, the Majles speaker called on world Muslims and particularly our compatriots to attend international Jerusalem Day to make the day as glorious as possible. Our correspondent reports on this session:

During the Majles session, Mr. Karrubi, in a speech refering to the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, Jerusalem Day, termed the day as the day of world Muslims' mobilization and protest against conspiracies of global arrogance and the criminal Israel. He said: his holiness the imam [Khomeyni] believed that the problem of Palestine was an Islamic problem, and while opposing the monarchy regime, his holiness announced that the issue of Palestine was a problem of the Islamic world. The issue of Palestine, therefore, became one of the aspirations of the Islamic revolution of Iran from the start. It was for the same reason that an international Jerusalem Day was named so as to mobilize the Muslims. Referring to the United States and the West's unstinting support for the Zionists, Mr. Karrubi enumerated the conspiracies of global arrogance to crush the Islamic movement of Palestine, addi g that moves of the Saddam regime in Iraq are also plots hatched by the United States.

Mr. Karrubi also referred to the Islamic Majles' measures in support of the Islamic movement of Palestine and said: Two approved Majles resolutions on assisting the Palestinians and allocation of a special fund in the budget bill are part of these measures.

Reiterating the need to continue the Islamic ummah's support for the uprising of the people of Palestine, he expressed the hope that this year's hajj rituals will be organized in an Abrahamite manner, the same as in previous years.

In conclusion the speaker of the Majles, while stressing the point that the only way for the liberation of Jerusalem is through reliance on Islam and ousting the criminal United States from the region, called on the people to attend the international Jerusalem Day marches, in accordance with the instructions of his holiness imam and the esteemed leader, and to direct their cry of protest and hatred at Zionism and the United States.

Government Warned Against 'Appeasement' in Gulf

LD1004171191 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN in a commentary Wednesday warned against the policy of appeasement by Iran in her jogging for a

prestigious place in the so-called Persian Gulf security order. It said Iran should watch against "tripping into the mirage of the security system of 'the White House'."

The commentary criticized recent gestures by Iran for restoration of relations with Egypt "while the humiliating Camp David agreement still holds" and with Saudi Arabia whose government, it said, was responsible for the mass killing of Iranian pilgrims in Mecca in July 1987.

KEYHAN said: "Frankly speaking many of those people (who advocate conciliatory moves by Iran towards Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the British government) do not themselves have a clear definition for that (Persian Gulf security) system."

"At least what awaits Tehran in the deal is not in the best interests of the Islamic revolution. To get to that point would mean voluntary, unilateral advances by Iran which are inherently against the dignity of our system."

Government Lifts Ban on Imports of U.S., UK Goods

NC1004143391 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Tehran, April 10 (AFP)—The Iranian government has cancelled a series of measures prohibiting purchases of U.S. and British imports by Iranian companies, an authoritative source said Wednesday. The decision means that "private and state-owned Iranian businesses can have free commercial and financial transactions from now on with U.S. and British companies," the source said.

The decision by the government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani follows last year's renewal of diplomatic ties between Iran and Britain, and several accords between the U.S. and Iran settling long-running disputes between the two countries. Hardline deputy Abol Hasan Ha'eri-Zadeh demanded that the government "explain the motives for its decision".

"What are the necessities and the erroneous policies which justify the repeal of these glorious prohibitions of the people of Iran," he asked. The measures were instituted by the government of former Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

Palestinians Condemn Recognition of Israel

LD1004113191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] The secretariat of the international conference of support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people issued a statement declaring its decisive support for the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people and condemning all the plans presently being implemented against the interests of the Muslim people of Palestine and aimed at recognizing the Zionist regime. The statement invites our compatriots to take part in the nationwide marches on International Jerusalem Day on a scale larger than in previous years.

Addressing the compromising heads of states who intend to continue the Camp David course and recognize the existence of the Zionists in Islamic lands, the statement reads: They should know that, in continuation of the Islamic movement of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his auspicious soul, the Muslim Palestinian nation will raise the banner of Islam in their struggles, in step with the Islamic movement throughout the region, rout the Zionist aggressors, and cleanse the Islamic lands of that shameful stain.

To that end, inspired by the lofty commands and ideals of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and in support of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to fortify the Islamic movement in Palestine, declare their hatred for the policies of the superpowers, and liberate honorable Jerusalem, the revolutionary and Muslim people of Iran will celebrate Jerusalem Day more gloriously than ever.

Five Million BPD Oil Output for 1993 Plannned

LD0904205391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Apr 91

[Text] The National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] of Iran held its general assembly today, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In this session the 1366, 1367, and 1368 [Iranian years begining on 21 March 1987, 88, 89] NIOC balance sheets were raised, and the Planning and Budget Organization presented a report on the achievements and the physical progress of the company's plans and programs in the year 1369 [year starting 21 March 1990] and assessed the progress to be satisfactory. The company's proposed planning and capital projects budget for 1370: [21 March 1991] amounting to 874 billion rials was approved. Also ratified was the budget for crucial plans, such as building the Bandar 'Abbas, Arak and Bandar-e Taheri refineries, reconstruction of Khark jetties, the Kangan natural gas scheme, the Aqar-Dalan project, all the existing projects in the exploration program, the increase of production to five million barrels per day [BPD] by 1372 [year starting 21 March 1993], and the export of crude oil, refining, piping and distribution which exist in the approved NIOC programs.

Pakistan

Minister Returns From Bangladesh, Expects Trade

BK1004074291 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed in principle to increase bilateral trade. Federal Minister for Railways Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani said this while talking to

newsmen at Karachi Airport last night on his return from a visit to Bangladesh. He said Bangladesh has agreed to begin a special trade agreement with Pakistan. The minister told newsmen that the acting president and the prime minister of Bangladesh have both accepted the invitation of the Pakistani president and prime minister to visit Pakistan.

Chinese Ambassador Speaks on Economic Ties

BK0404142491 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Apr 91

[Text] China will buy additional quantities of cotton and other commodities and it has also placed a purchase order for ships which are already being built at the Karachi Shipyard. This was stated by the outgoing Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Tian Ding, in Karachi last evening. Addressing the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the ambassador invited Pakistani traders to visit China to explore prospects of increasing trade between the two countries.

Oil Production To Reach 68,000 Barrels/Day

BK0704133091 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Apr 91 p 6

[Text] Islamabad, April, 6—Oil production in the country would reach 68,000 barrel oil per day by June this year. At present drilling was under way at four exploratory and eight appraisal wells, ministry sources said.

Three of the exploratory wells included in Punjab, while one was located in Thatta (Sindh). Oil production in Hyderabad district is 16,426 barrel oil per day and Badin district 18,958 barrel.

Steps To Protect Environment Outlined

BK0504105491 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 5 Apr 91

[Text] The government has taken concrete steps to protect the environment from atmospheric pollution. These include promulgation of Pakistan Environmental Protection Ordinance 1983, setting up of environmental protection agencies at federal and provincial levels, and delegation of necessary powers to them to control the pollution and preserve the living environment. Government agencies have also framed environmental quality control standards for industrial gases emission and liquid effluents.

Fundamentalists Threaten To Disrupt Zekri Rituals

BK1004142491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1247 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, April 10 (AFP)—Fundamentalist Muslims are threatening to disrupt the annual rituals of a Pakistani religious sect that holds its own Mecca-like pilgrimage, official sources said Wednesday.

At least two incidents related to agitation against the Zekri sect have been reported in the run up to the sect's main rites, which are set for Saturday.

The fundamentalists are demanding that the Pakistan parliament officially declare the Zekri a non-Muslim group, as it did with the Qadiani sect in 1974.

On Tuesday, rockets were fired at the Zekri holy site on the Koh Murad mountain in the suburbs of Turbat, in Baluchistan province, sources said. No one was hurt in the attack but it increased tension in Turbat and other areas where Zekri reside, and official sources said the Baluchistan government had mobilized police and paramilitary contingents in sensitive areas.

More than a dozen people were injured Friday when baton-wielding police charged a crowd that defied an official ban on public gatherings at Turbat, about 720 kilometres (450 miles) south of this provincial capital, the sources said. The demonstrators, belonging to Majlise Thafluze Khatme Nabuwat, an organisation of Sunni Muslims, were denouncing Zekri beliefs and practices. Last year, three members of the sect were killed during an attack on a Zekri convoy en route to the mountain shrine.

According to holy books of the sect, which was founded in 1569, Zekri pray in a way similar to Muslims, but only three times a day, whereas Muslims are supposed to pray five times daily. Zekri organise a pilgrimage on the pattern of the haj but do not fast and believe the sect's founder, Mullah Mohammed Attocki, was the last messenger of God. Orthodox Muslims believe Muhammad was the last messenger of God.

Estimated to number about a million people, the bulk of them Baluchis, Zekri inhabit the districts of Gawadar, Panjgur and Turbat in the Mekran division and Lasbela and Khuzdar in the Kalat division, in Baluchistan.